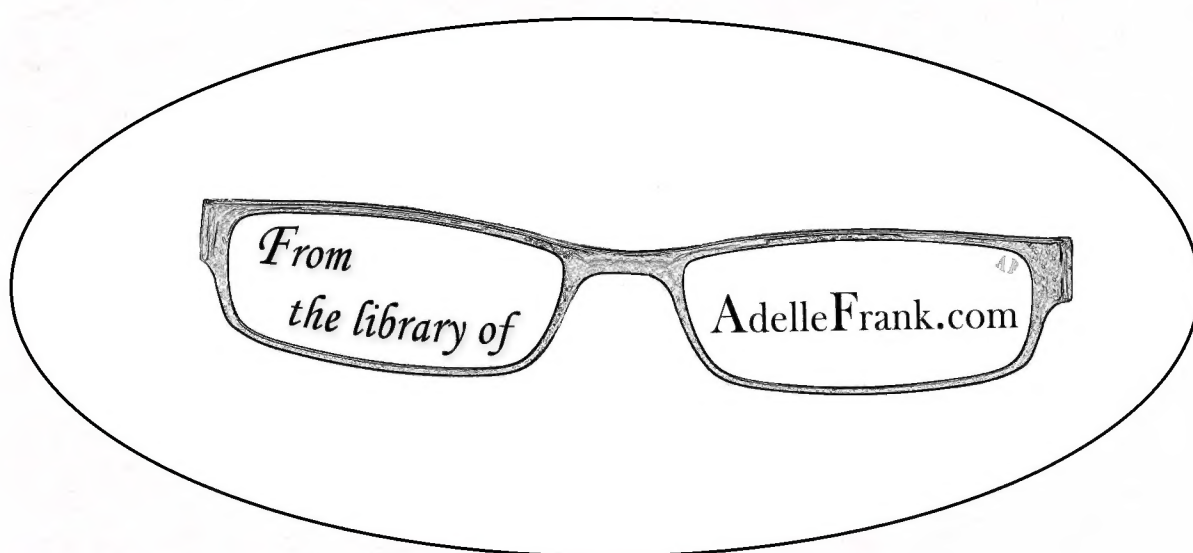


*Church of the Brethren*  
*in*  
*Southern Ohio*







The men charged by the district to publish this history. *Back row, left to right:* John E. Oliver, secretary; Wilbur K. Groff; Homer L. Royer. *Front row:* John Eikenberry; H. H. Helman, editor; J. C. Flora, chairman



*Church of the Brethren*  
*in*  
*Southern Ohio*

H. H. Helman, Editor

Compiled by the  
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Authorized by the  
DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN OHIO

BRETHREN PUBLISHING HOUSE  
Elgin, Illinois



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The Church of the Brethren originated in Germany. It was established in America in 1719, when a German "Tunker" of the name of Peter Becker immigrated from Schwarzenau, Germany, to Germantown, Pennsylvania, with twenty families and organized the first "German Baptist Brethren" church in the colonies. For more than a century Ohio has been one of the leading Brethren states. The first churches were organized above the Ohio River in the area east of Cincinnati. By 1812 there were perhaps twelve congregations in the southwestern part of the state. This is the beginning of Southern Ohio, one of the forty-eight districts in the United States (there are four outside this country) comprising the Church of the Brethren, with headquarters at Elgin, Illinois.







## Foreword

No organization which lives in the past can serve the present well or build well for the future. On the other hand, no group can serve the present age or build a solid foundation for future generations which does not have its roots well grounded in the past. History is a continuous flow of events, an ever-changing stream of which we are a part. How well we play that part can help to determine the future.

Down through the years the Brethren have not kept their record of events very thoroughly. In Southern Ohio we have been fortunate to have had recorded and published for us in 1920 a record of the organization and the progress of the church to that date. Thirty-five years have passed since the publication of that earlier history and these years have shown almost revolutionary progress and continuous development. In many ways this progress and development have identified the district with others of the Brotherhood.

Several years ago the Historical Committee of Southern Ohio began the collection of data and information for the present volume. Committee membership has changed, but the district has seen fit to add to the committee in numbers so that as now composed the committee is made up of all those persons who have served during these years in the collection and compilation of data and information for the new history.

Southern Ohio is fortunate in having the services of Brother H. H. Helman as editor. He has worked long and well in the sifting of what was sometimes conflicting information and in keeping all phases of the project in proper perspective. No history is ever complete and probably no history is ever entirely accurate. Events can be interpreted only from the viewpoint of the person and the time. The future will have to give to the recorded history of today additional meaning and further light.



Since few persons in Southern Ohio today have access to the previous historical volume, the committee has felt it wise to condense some of the early history into this volume as well as to record in greater detail the happenings of more recent years. Insofar as possible, the information herein recorded is up to date as of January 1955. We trust that this volume will serve as a source of material for information, that it will prove interesting in content, and that it will prove inspirational. We hope it will be a valuable contribution to the total recorded achievements of the Church of the Brethren.

—*Homer L. Royer*  
Dayton, Ohio



## Introduction

The forces, influences, and personalities that have made the history of Southern Ohio are difficult to locate. The ideals of godly men and women; the will to achieve in the souls of leaders; the purpose of the lay members of the churches to be loyal; the spirit of youth, straining to take its place in the work of the church; the daring hopes of adventurous souls; the heritage of rich soil and the far-sightedness of tillers of the soil—all these factors have contributed to the development of one of the strongest districts of the Church of the Brethren. Full credit to whom credit is due is impossible.

The growth and progress have not been uninterrupted. There have been efforts not wisely conceived, moves in the wrong direction, misunderstandings, obstinacies, bitter feelings, dissensions, and divisions. But the district has grown and developed and become strong. The chronicling of its history during the next generation, as it is built upon the present foundation, should be a pleasant and rewarding experience for someone.

The fundamental changes that have occurred during the years from 1920 to 1955 will hardly be evident to the casual reader. In spite of our efforts these changes are more or less taken for granted in this treatment. Yet great changes have taken place. The old plain meetinghouses have given way to houses of worship representing the latest and most modern architecture. The free ministry has been succeeded by a paid pastor in every congregation. The very simple worship service is replaced by services unified around a theme and supported by effective music, both vocal and instrumental. We used to kneel in prayer; now it is seldom done. Prayers and sermons, formerly long, are now measured to the needs and attitudes of the worshipers. The floors of the sanctuaries were bare; now they are beautifully carpeted or tiled. Windows formerly plain are now of art glass. The long table and bench on the



pulpit platform have been succeeded by pulpit and chairs of one ecclesiastical design. The formerly plain wall back of the speaker may now contain a painting, an altar with a cross and candles, rich draperies, or art glass with Christian symbols.

These, however, may not be the most significant changes. The church which formerly purposely disassociated itself from other denominations and social movements now joins hands with other Christian bodies and movements where it seems that the Kingdom of God can best be promoted by united efforts. Instead of shying at higher education the church now deems it essential. From opposing Sunday schools it has come to rate Christian education as one of its prime functions. From silencing women and young people it has been providing avenues of service for the eager workers. From taking offerings only at business meetings, and these principally for the poor, the local churches and the district now have budgets which have reached unimaginable totals. There were few parsonages when the 1920 history was written. Now almost every church has one, and many of them, more recently constructed, are commodious, impressive, and beautiful.

That the district has grown spiritually would be questioned by some. But it has. From being a kind of piety it has become something adventurous and hopeful. Members have dedicated and devoted their lives to the cause of the church. More than being good they want to be good for something. It has been the spirit of the district recently to accept the challenge of every opportunity to move forward in the Lord's work.

There is no sense in which this volume is inclusive or complete. There is a feeling of futility in editing a history like this. The source material is very inadequate; it is easy to miss important facts and difficult to decide who should have credit for what. One feels that he would like to hold the manuscript open until all the facts are in. But he cannot. There would be no written history.

If this volume can be accepted as it is, with all its limitations, and cherished as a record of the people of God, insofar as it is seeable, the editor will be pleased.

Grateful recognition should be given to Homer and Minnie Bright, who wrote the Missions section of this volume; to Vinnie Helstern, who furnished much of the data for the chapter on Women's Work; to Nevin Coppock for data on the Men's Work; to Mark Shellhaas for material on the Youth Work; to Dan West for data on the early Sugar Grove Camp movements; to Joe Wise for assistance with the information concerning the Sunday-school; to Clarence Priser, the "official" photographer for this volume; and to many others who furnished information and source materials without which this volume would not have been possible.

—*H. H. Helman*  
New Carlisle, Ohio





# Contents

## PART ONE: ORGANIZATIONS AND FUNCTIONS

1. District Organization .....	17
2. District Boards or Committees .....	31
3. The Elders' Body .....	46
4. Christian Education .....	53
5. Brethren Service .....	62
6. Women's Work .....	70
7. Men's Work .....	75
8. The Brethren Home .....	82
9. Youth Activities .....	88
10. Camp Sugar Grove .....	96

## PART TWO: CONGREGATIONS

1. Functioning Churches .....	107
2. New Centers .....	246
3. The Churches Left Behind .....	247
4. Groups Which Stepped Aside .....	254

## PART THREE: PERSONALITIES

1. Clergy .....	259
2. Laity .....	440

## PART FOUR: OUTREACH

1. Introductory Statement .....	473
2. China .....	475
3. India .....	495
4. Nigeria .....	503
5. Summary .....	507

## PART FIVE: SOUTHERN OHIO CENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE

"In Unbroken Line" .....	511
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## PART ONE

# Organizations and Functions







## 1. DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

As members moved into the territory of the District of Southern Ohio and formed congregations, questions and problems arose; to deal with these, conferences or "meetings" came to be held. All of the congregations could be represented, though at first there were no elected delegates. The members who could, just came. Three such meetings were held by the year 1844. Prior to such meetings local church problems were referred to the adjoining elders.

These meetings received official status in 1856 when "a proposal for forming districts of five, six or more adjoining churches, for the purpose of meeting jointly at least once a year, settling difficulties, etc., and thus lessening the business of the Yearly Meeting"<sup>1</sup> was before the Annual Conference.

In 1858 a district meeting was held at Bear Creek, with Peter Nead as moderator. The earliest minutes available to those composing this history were for the year 1896. In the history of 1920 the authors list the date, place, and officers of each district conference from 1858 on.

However, even before our district meeting was organized, as such, representatives on Standing Committee were elected to serve. The history of 1920 gives the first date of such representation as 1841. It seems that Peter Nead had served in 1849, 1850, and 1856, prior to the first district meeting. When the district meetings came into being, the pattern prevailing throughout the Brotherhood obtained. The main items of business were problems relating to practice and discipline in the local churches involved, and the interpretation of doctrines and teachings.

The district, through its elders, authorized and directed the ordination of elders. The Elders' Body formed a very strong advisory body for the district and the churches. A

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<sup>1</sup> *Minutes of the Annual Meetings, Church of the Brethren, 1778 to 1909*, page 159. 1856, Article 23.

church could be put under a committee of elders, if the conditions warranted it.

Since local churches could bring queries or problems to the district meeting these came to include more than just local church matters. The matter of district activities and organization was thus brought up for action. This is how the boards and committees serving the district came into being. As the needs were felt, churches asked that leaders be set apart to direct these interests in the district.

The first board to be appointed was the Mission Board. The first members were Samuel Mohler, Landon West, John Smith, Oliver Yount, and Jesse Stutsman. They were chosen by the district meeting of 1882 to serve one year. Until 1889 they were appointed by the district meeting; after that, elected by the delegates. They and successors chosen or elected in subsequent years served thus until 1893, when, after a study of the matter by a special committee, it was decided to constitute the "Mission Board of the German Baptist Church of Southern Ohio." It was to be composed of five brethren—ministers, deacons, and laymen—the term of office to be five years. Their duties were defined. In 1892 a committee was appointed to revise the plan of the Mission Board. This set the pattern for this board until the work of missions was assumed by the District Board of Southern Ohio in 1952. The Commission on Ministry, Missions and Church Extension became the director of this phase of district activities. During all these years there were five members, both laymen and elders, serving terms of five years. Beginning with an expenditure of some three hundred dollars, the board came to spend on missions in the district as high as \$14,000 or more in a single year. It not only placed workers in district-supported churches, but it also received and disbursed funds for the erection of new church buildings. The district charged them to be careful to place only loyal ministers, conforming fully to the practices of the church, in charge of churches being assisted by the Mission Board.

At first the travel expense of the members was met by the district but later a *per diem* remuneration was allowed, set at \$2.50 in 1920.



This board directed the erection of or acquired houses of worship at Constance, Kentucky, 1902; Cincinnati, 1919; Circleville, 1912; Cassel Run, 1914; Bethany, 1926; Flat Creek, Kentucky, 1947; Greenville, 1901; Hamilton, 1937; Middletown, 1915; Sidney, 1905; Springfield, 1923; and Troy, 1911. In 1941 the Mission Board accepted the supervision of a mission in eastern Kentucky, Turkey Creek, to be financed by the Home Mission Department of the General Mission Board. Later, in 1943, it assumed direction of the mission at Flat Creek with the same arrangement.

The organization of the Brethren Home Board and of the Board of Religious Education is related in other chapters. Recognition of the Women's Work and the Men's Work was duly given as these came into being. These are also recorded in separate chapters.

In the effort to meet the needs of the changing times, the district, in its annual district conferences, appointed committees, changed rules, regulations, and responsibilities of its organizations, or discontinued an organization whose functions were no longer needed or could be taken over by another existing board or group.

At first the monies of the Mission Board were essentially those of the district as a whole. The board paid for the publishing of the minutes each year, as well as other of the district expenses. In 1907 appears the first report of the district treasurer, and from then on only money used to promote missions was handled by the Mission Board. A district treasurer was authorized and appointed in 1904.

Many times the matter of fixing the responsibility of local churches to support the work of the district came up. At first the Mission Board apportioned its needed funds among the churches. In 1905 an Apportionment Committee was appointed to do this for all money needed for the program of the district. There were five members, the term being for five years.

The number was five in 1915 but in 1918 the number was three (changed in 1916 or 1917), and this number made up the Apportionment Committee until its work was absorbed in the new organization of 1952. The committee was instructed

to apportion the funds on the basis of net value and the number of members. This was not always satisfactory to all the churches. In 1911 the basis was changed. The basis for valuation was to be the tax duplicate, less two thirds of the indebtedness. The valuation was to be taken every fourth year. A finance committee was to be chosen by each local church to report to the Apportionment Committee each year any change in valuation or membership. In 1952 the membership reported in the *Yearbook* was made the basis.

As the problem of ministerial leadership for local churches became apparent the district appointed in 1911 the Committee on Ministerial Supply. This was the beginning of what later came to be known as the Ministerial Board, whose duties were gradually enlarged to include the licensing of ministers, helping churches secure pastors and installing some, and advising on the ordination of deacons. There were three members on this committee consistently until its work was absorbed by the new organization in 1952. In the report of 1915 this committee gave the number of elders in the district as seventy-five and the average age fifty-eight. There were forty-five ministers in the second degree, average age, forty-five; and in the first degree, fourteen, average age, thirty-six. There were forty-five churches, with forty of them having resident ministers. The report pointed out that adding three more ministers there would be an average of three ministers for each church.

As it became evident that officers, board members, and committees tended to be re-elected again and again, the number of terms came to be limited to two and board membership limited to one district board at a time. Until 1936 the district officers were chosen at the beginning of the conference at which they served. In that year it was decided to elect them in advance and the secretary for a three-year term. By the same action it was required that the boards of the district meet prior to the time of the district meeting to prepare their reports.

This was not the beginning, however, of the joint meeting of the boards. In 1929 the boards met together on April 2 at Dayton. By 1935 they had decided to meet twice yearly.



This was the Joint Boards. By 1937 they were known as the Council of Boards. This attempt at co-ordination of functions and responsibilities laid the groundwork for the District Board of the Southern District of Ohio, which was organized and began functioning in 1952.

Along in the 1920's the number of boards and committees had reached a total of ten: Mission Board, five members; Brethren's Home Board, five members; Apportionment Committee, three members; Ministerial Committee, three members; Temperance Committee, three members; Auditing Committee, three members; Board of Religious Education, three members; Midsummer Assembly Committee, three members; Aid Society Committee, three members; Credential Committee, three members.

Just prior to the new district organization in 1952 there were nine boards, appointed by the district conference: Mission Board, five members; Ministerial Board, three members; Board of Christian Education, five members; Trustees, Brethren Home, five members; Apportionment Committee, three members; Auditing Committee, three members; Credential Committee, three members; Comity Committee, three members; Historical Committee, three members.

Besides these committees and boards others were set up to function as needs arose:

1913, Committee on Flood Sufferers' Relief

1915, Historical Committee

1917, Peace Committee (special conference)

1922, Midsummer Assembly Committee

1926, Welfare Board, replacing the Temperance Committee, and the duties to include temperance, peace, and the simple life

1927, Historical Committee made permanent

1929, Comity Committee

1932, Welfare Board discontinued and its functions given to the Board of Religious Education

1932, Representative of the General Boards

1934, Board of Christian Education made the trustees of Camp Sugar Grove

1939, German Refugee Committee

1940, Representative on the Central Regional Council

1941, District peace director, under Board of Religious Education

1942, Representative, Brethren Service

1943, Representative to assembly of the Ohio Council of Churches

1945, Director of Camp Mack

1947, Assistant moderator, district conference

1948, Laymen may serve as district officers

1948, Brotherhood Fund representative

1949, Committee on Displaced Persons

1950, Committee to Study District Administration

1950, Brethren Service Committee reorganized

Also the district decided at times to appoint individuals for special duties in the district.

1899, Levi Minnich appointed district Sunday-school secretary

1903, R. H. Nicodemus made assistant Sunday-school secretary

1904, District treasurer appointed

1914, Secretary of Aid Society reports to district conference

1923, Director of religious education, John A. Robinson appointed

1928, Men's Work secretary's report accepted

1931, Director of religious education, N. B. Wine appointed

1941, Director of Children's Work authorized under Board of Christian Education

1952, District executive secretary authorized, to be appointed by the District Board; Moyne Landis, who had been the pastor of the Oakland church since 1944, chosen

As has been indicated several times, the functions of these boards and committees were taken over by the new district



organization, called the District Board of Southern Ohio, in 1952. A copy of the organization plan and the action of the district leading to its adoption is printed, beginning on



**The District Parsonage**

The new district parsonage was erected in 1954 at 32 Duerr Drive, West Milton, for the use of the district executive secretary. It consists of seven rooms for the dwelling and a utility room and a large conference room in the basement. A breezeway and double garage are attached.

page 24. The functions of the Men's Work, the Women's Work, the Historical Committee, and the Credentials Committee were not included in the duties assigned to the new board.

The elders' meeting was held previous to each district meeting and functioned in the ordination of elders, the disciplining of churches or ministers, for some time in the nominations of district officers and/or Standing Committee delegates, and in giving advice on matters coming before conference. It was the custom for the officers of district meeting to be the officers of the elders' meeting. Annual Conference defines its composition and functions. From being



a body of rather elderly, bearded ministers, most of whom were not designated as pastors, it has come lately to be composed of both elderly men and younger active pastors. They represent active pastors, pastors in retirement or semi-retirement, some who have served mostly as presiding elders over churches and advisers to their younger brethren, and some whose experience in the active ministry has been limited. The elders' meeting has become a meeting for inspiration as well as for carrying on the business coming before it. An address by an invited guest speaker is a feature of each meeting. All elders of the district are eligible to be members of the Elders' Body, while the voting constituency of the district conference is made up of delegates elected by the local churches. The district conference is the highest authority of the district, and churches may appeal to it in matters pertaining to themselves or to the work of boards and committees in the district.

It should be noted that in 1942 the district authorized representation on the Central Regional Council, designating the district secretary as its representative. In the new organization in 1952, the District Board is required to appoint a member on the council. The district assumes its share of the financial support of the work of the council.

### REORGANIZATION

At the district conference at the Oakland church, April 27 and 28, 1951, the council of boards asked that a committee of nine be appointed to make a study of the administrative organization of our district and to report by 1953.

The secretary of the district, Philip H. Lauver, was named to be convener of the committee, and the council of boards asked J. Clyde Forney to represent that body on the committee. The Mission Board, the Ministerial Board, the Board of Christian Education, the Cabinet of Women's Work, the Cabinet of Men's Work, the District CBYF and the Elders' Body, each were to be represented in the committee. For the Mission Board, John H. Good served; for the Board of Christian Education, Kenneth Long; for the Ministerial Board, George W. Phillips; for Women's Work, Mrs. Moyne Landis; for Men's Work, Nevin Coppock; for the CBYF, Ralph Dull; and for the elders, H. H. Helman.

In organizing for its task the committee asked H. H. Helman to be chairman and J. Clyde Forney to act as secretary.



The committee made a thorough study of the present administrative organization of our district, and of the administrative organization of other districts of the Brotherhood. It appeared that greater effectiveness and economy might be achieved if the work of the district were integrated under the care of a single administrative body, such as now administers the work of the Brotherhood. In harmony with this principle, the following plan of organization was presented by the committee to the district conference:

## ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION OF THE DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN OHIO

### 1. THE DISTRICT BOARD

The Church of the Brethren of Southern Ohio is entrusted to the oversight and fostering care of a District Board.

#### *A. Membership*

The District Board shall be made up of fifteen persons elected by majority vote of the delegates to district conference, from a ballot prepared by the Nominating and Personnel Committee. The moderator and the secretary of the district conference by virtue of their offices shall be ex-officio members of the board.

#### *B. Tenure*

Each of the members of the District Board shall be elected for a term of three years, except that at the first election five members shall be elected for a term of one year, five for a term of two years, and five for a term of three years. Each member shall be eligible for nomination to succeed himself, but, at the completion of a second successive term, he shall not again be eligible for nomination until a period of one year shall have elapsed.

#### *C. Eligibility*

Any member of the Church of the Brethren who has been a resident member of one of the congregations of the District of Southern Ohio for a period of one year, and who has demonstrated consecrated Christian living and faithful service in the local congregation; loyalty to the ideals, program, and practices of the Church of the Brethren; and ability to exercise wise judgment in the affairs of the church shall be eligible to be nominated for election to the District Board.

#### *D. Organization*

The District Board shall meet at the call of the moderator of the district conference as soon as feasible after the annual election. At this meeting the board shall choose a chairman, a vice-chairman, and a secretary from among its members, and determine the time and place of meetings.

The board shall organize into four commissions;

The Commission on Ministry, Missions and Church Extension with five members.

The Commission on Christian Education with four members.

The Commission on Brethren Service with three members.

The Commission on Stewardship and Finance with three members.

#### *E. Duties*

(a) General duties of the District Board:

1. The District Board is charged with the responsibility of planning, administering, promoting and supervising the total work of the district.

2. It shall appoint a committee to plan and provide for the program of the annual district conference.

3. It shall appoint a district treasurer, who shall receive, conserve, and disburse all funds belonging to the District of Southern Ohio at the direction of the Board of Administration. His tenure and compensation shall be determined by the board.

4. It shall appoint, as needed, persons who shall be responsible for the promotion of the functional program of the church in the districts.\*

Each of these functional interests, the trustees of Manchester College, the trustees of the Brethren's Home, the District Cabinet of the CBYF, the District Cabinet of Women's Work, and the District Cabinet of Men's Work shall be entitled to be represented by one person at the meetings of the District Board.

5. It shall designate one of its members to represent the district as a member of the Central Regional Council.

6. It shall employ and direct the work of such personnel as may be authorized by district conference.

7. It shall make interim appointments to fill such vacancies as may occur in district offices.

8. It shall appoint three persons to serve with the moderator and the secretary of the district conference as a District Nominating and Personnel Committee, among whose duties it shall be to prepare a ballot offering at least two names for each office to be filled by vote of the delegates to district conference. Further nominations from the floor of district conference may be added to the ballot. The term of one of the appointed members of this committee shall expire each year, and no member shall be eligible to succeed himself.

9. It shall prepare, and present to district conference, a proposed

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\* At present these functional officials are as follows:

- (1) A district Brotherhood Fund representative;
- (2) A district director of children's work, with a cabinet of five members;
- (3) A district director of intermediate work, with a cabinet of four members;
- (4) A district director of leadership training;
- (5) A board of five directors of Camp Sugar Grove;
- (6) A committee on educational program for Camp Sugar Grove;
- (7) An editor and a business manager of the *Southern Ohio Herald*.



annual budget to care for the total anticipated financial needs of the work of the district.

10. It shall make annual reports of its work to the district conference, with recommendations for such action as seems appropriate.

11. It shall hold title to such real estate and funds as may be the property of the district.

12. It shall undertake to promote closer fraternal relations with all evangelical denominations, and especially with those which share the Dunker tradition.

(b) The Commission on Ministry, Missions and Church Extension, under the direction of the District Board, shall:

1. Recruit, license, and ordain ministers, with the consent and co-operation of the local congregations.

2. Ordain ministers into the eldership upon the approval of the Elders' Body of the district and with the consent of the local congregation.

3. Assist local congregations in pastoral placement, working in co-operation with the executive secretary of the Central Region.

4. Install pastors.

5. Promote wholesome relations between the pastor and his church.

6. Provide opportunities for in-service training and fellowship for ministers, for deacons, for members of local ministerial boards, and for other groups with related responsibilities.

7. Supervise and foster the work of those congregations which receive support from the treasury of the district.

8. Search out locations within the area of the district into which the church should extend its activities, and bring recommendations for the establishment of new work to the board for study and disposition.

9. Promote and supervise a comprehensive program of evangelism in the churches of the district.

10. Encourage young people to volunteer for missionary service, and promote missions at home and abroad.

(c) The Commission on Christian Education, under the direction of the District Board, shall:

1. Foster and assist the work of Christian education in the local congregations.

2. Provide opportunities for in-service training for the workers in the local congregations.

3. Administer the educational program of the district camp.

4. Co-operate with the cabinets of Children's Work, Intermediate Work, the CBYF, Men's Work, and Women's Work, in co-ordinating the educational program of the district.

5. Designate one of its members to be the representative of Southern Ohio on the Board of Directors of Camp Mack.

(d) The Commission on Brethren Service, under the direction of the District Board, shall:

1. Promote and supervise all the relief activities of the district.
2. Interpret, promote, and recruit for Brethren Volunteer Service.
3. Promote the peace education program of the church, and provide counsel on matters of military conscription.
4. Promote and offer guidance for the expression of Christian convictions concerning proposed legislation in Congress, in the state legislature, and in local communities.
5. Promote plans to assist Brethren families to locate their homes in Brethren communities.
6. Promote appreciation for the Christian values of rural life, and help Brethren farmers secure land in Brethren communities.

(e) The Commission on Stewardship and Finance, under the direction of the District Board, shall:

1. Arrange for the bonding of the district treasurer.
2. Provide for the annual audit of the books of the district treasurer and of all other treasurers who may report to the district conference.
3. Apportion the budget among the local congregations.
4. Be available to counsel with the finance officials of the local congregations.
5. Direct the work of the district Brotherhood Fund representative.
6. Recommend an annual Brotherhood Fund goal for the district.
7. Promote Christian stewardship in the district and in the local congregations.
8. Conserve and invest all annuity, endowment and other funds belonging to the district.
9. Care for, conserve, and protect all real estate to which the District Board holds title.

## II. THE ELDERS' BODY

The composition and function of the Elders' Body are those defined by the decisions of the Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren.

## III. OTHER OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, AND BOARDS

### *A. Officers of District Conference*

1. The business of the district conference shall be conducted by four officers: a moderator, an assistant moderator, a reading clerk, and a secretary, who shall be elected by majority vote of the delegates at district conference.
2. Any ordained elder or minister who has been a resident member of one of the congregations of the district for a period of one year, and who fulfills the qualifications set forth in the minutes of



Annual Conference, is eligible for nomination to serve as moderator or as assistant moderator.

3. Any person who has been a resident member of one of the congregations of the district for a period of one year, and who fulfills the qualifications set forth above for members of the district board, is eligible to serve as reading clerk or as secretary of the district conference.

4. A person may serve as moderator, as assistant moderator, or as reading clerk no more often than once in three years.

5. The secretary shall be elected for a three-year term, and shall be eligible for nomination to succeed himself. At the close of a second successive term he shall not be eligible for a further term until one year shall have elapsed.

#### *B. Delegates to Standing Committee*

The choice of delegates to Standing Committee is governed by the statement of eligibility and qualifications set forth in the minutes of Annual Conference. A ballot shall be presented by the Nominating and Personnel Committee. Additional names may be added from the floor of the district conference. The first three to receive a majority vote shall serve as the members of the Standing Committee. The next three to receive a majority shall become the alternates.

#### *C. Trustees of the Brethren's Home*

The Brethren's Home at Greenville shall continue to be administered under the terms of its Articles of Incorporation by a board of five trustees elected by a majority vote of the delegates at district conference for terms of five years, one member's term expiring each year. No person shall be eligible for nomination to serve more than two successive terms until one year shall have elapsed after the completion of his second term.

#### *D. Trustee of Manchester College*

The representative of this district on the board of trustees of Manchester College shall be elected by majority vote of the delegates to the district conference for a five-year term. No person shall be eligible to serve more than two successive terms until one year shall have elapsed after the completion of the second term.

#### *E. Credential Committee*

The credential committee shall be made up of three elders chosen by the Elders' Body and confirmed by the district conference. They shall be elected to serve for three-year terms, the term of one member expiring each year. No member of the committee shall be eligible to succeed himself.

#### *F. Historical Committee*

There shall be a continuing committee of three persons whose duty it shall be to encourage the collection, conservation, organization, and publication of historical information concerning the Church of the Brethren in Southern Ohio. The members of this committee

shall be elected to serve for three-year terms, the term of one member expiring each year. No person shall be eligible to serve for more than two successive terms until a period of one year shall have elapsed after the completion of his second term.

*G. Resolutions Committee*

There shall be a continuing committee of three persons whose duty it shall be to present to the district conference a written body of resolutions expressing the convictions and attitudes of the Church of the Brethren on matters of local, national, and world-wide interest. Members of this committee shall be elected to three-year terms, the term of one member expiring each year. No member of this committee shall be eligible to succeed himself.

*H. Representatives to the Assembly, Ohio Council of Churches*

The Ohio Brethren Pastors' Association is authorized to submit nominations for representatives of the Church of the Brethren to the assembly of the Ohio Council of Churches. Upon confirmation of these nominations by vote of the delegates of the district conference, the persons so nominated shall become the official representatives of our district in that capacity.

*I. The Nominating and Personnel Committee*

This committee is provided for above, in the section on general duties of the board of administration.

*J. Other officers, committees, and boards* may be instituted at any time by vote of the delegates at district conference.

When this report shall have been accepted by vote of the delegates at the district conference, all officers and committees of the district not specifically provided for herein shall be discontinued, and all provisions in the minutes of the district conference which are at variance with it are hereby rescinded.

*Decisions of the Conference*

1. On motion of Brother Norman B. Wine of Mack Memorial, the delegates voted to adopt the plan of organization as amended.

2. On motion of Brother H. H. Helman of New Carlisle, the delegates voted to authorize the District Board to incorporate as the successor to the District Mission Board, and to any other incorporated board of the district.



## 2. DISTRICT BOARDS OR COMMITTEES

### MISSION BOARD

1920		1925	
E. C. Funderburg	1925	Orion Erbaugh	1930
J. O. Garst	1924	D. G. Berkebile	1929
J. W. Fidler	1923	J. W. Fidler	1928
C. A. Baker	1922	Levi Minnich	1927
I. G. Blocher	1921	J. H. Eidemiller	1926
1921		1926	
Howard Eidemiller	1926	J. H. Eidemiller	1931
E. C. Funderburg	1925	Orion Erbaugh	1930
J. O. Garst	1924	D. G. Berkebile	1929
J. W. Fidler	1923	R. N. Leatherman	1928
Levi Minnich	1922	Levi Minnich	1927
1922		1927	
Levi Minnich	1927	Levi Minnich	1932
Howard Eidemiller	1926	J. H. Eidemiller	1931
E. C. Funderburg	1925	Orion Erbaugh	1930
J. O. Garst	1924	D. G. Berkebile	1929
J. W. Fidler	1923	R. N. Leatherman	1928
1923		1928	
J. W. Fidler	1928	R. N. Leatherman	1933
Levi Minnich	1926	Levi Minnich	1932
Howard Eidemiller	1925	J. H. Eidemiller	1931
E. C. Funderburg	1924	Orion Erbaugh	1930
J. O. Garst	1923	D. G. Berkebile	1929
1924		1929	
D. G. Berkebile	1929	D. G. Berkebile	1934
J. W. Fidler	1928	H. M. Coppock	1933
Levi Minnich	1927	Levi Minnich	1932
J. H. Eidemiller	1926	J. H. Eidemiller	1931
E. C. Funderburg	1925	Orion Erbaugh	1930

1930		1936	
Orion Erbaugh	1935	J. H. Eidemiller	1941
D. G. Berkebile	1934	Orion Erbaugh	1940
H. M. Coppock	1933	D. G. Berkebile	1939
Levi Minnich	1932	H. M. Coppock	1938
J. H. Eidemiller	1931	Levi Minnich	1937
1931		1937	
J. H. Eidemiller	1936	Ray Petersime	1942
Orion Erbaugh	1935	J. H. Eidemiller	1941
D. G. Berkebile	1934	Orion Erbaugh	1940
H. M. Coppock	1933	D. G. Berkebile	1939
Levi Minnich	1932	H. M. Coppock	1938
1932		1938	
Levi Minnich	1937	H. M. Coppock	1943
J. H. Eidemiller	1936	Ray Petersime	1942
Orion Erbaugh	1935	J. H. Eidemiller	1941
D. G. Berkebile	1934	Orion Erbaugh	1940
H. M. Coppock	1933	D. G. Berkebile	1939
1933		1939	
H. M. Coppock	1938	Oliver Royer	1944
Levi Minnich	1937	H. M. Coppock	1943
J. H. Eidemiller	1936	Ray Petersime	1942
Orion Erbaugh	1935	J. H. Eidemiller	1941
D. G. Berkebile	1934	Orion Erbaugh	1940
1934		1940	
D. G. Berkebile	1939	Ray Porter	1945
H. M. Coppock	1938	Oliver Royer	1944
Levi Minnich	1937	H. M. Coppock	1943
J. H. Eidemiller	1936	Ray Petersime	1942
Orion Erbaugh	1935	J. H. Eidemiller	1941
1935		1941	
Orion Erbaugh	1940	Ray O. Shank	1946
D. G. Berkebile	1939	Ray Porter	1945
H. M. Coppock	1938	Oliver Royer	1944
Levi Minnich	1937	H. M. Coppock	1943
J. H. Eidemiller	1936	Ray Petersime	1942



1942		1947	
Ray Petersime .....	1947	Guy Studebaker .....	1952
Ray O. Shank .....	1946	C. G. Erbaugh .....	1951
Ray Porter .....	1945	Ray Porter .....	1950
Oliver Royer .....	1944	E. Friend Couser .....	1949
H. M. Coppock .....	1943	John H. Good .....	1948
1943		1948	
John H. Good .....	1948	John H. Good .....	1953
Ray Petersime .....	1947	Guy Studebaker .....	1952
Ray O. Shank .....	1946	C. G. Erbaugh .....	1951
Ray Porter .....	1945	Ray Porter .....	1950
Oliver Royer .....	1944	E. Friend Couser .....	1949
1944		1949	
E. Friend Couser .....	1949	E. Friend Couser .....	1954
John H. Good .....	1948	John H. Good .....	1953
Ray Petersime .....	1947	Ora L. Hoover .....	1952
Ray O. Shank .....	1946	C. G. Erbaugh .....	1951
Ray Porter .....	1945	Ray Porter .....	1950
1945		1950	
Ray Porter .....	1950	Ralph E. Mishler .....	1955
E. Friend Couser .....	1949	E. Friend Couser .....	1954
John H. Good .....	1948	John H. Good .....	1953
Ray Petersime .....	1947	Ora L. Hoover .....	1952
Ray O. Shank .....	1946	C. G. Erbaugh .....	1951
1946		1951	
C. G. Erbaugh .....	1951	Ora L. Hoover .....	1956
Ray Porter .....	1950	C. G. Erbaugh .....	1955
E. Friend Couser .....	1949	Ralph E. Mishler .....	1954
John H. Good .....	1948	E. Friend Couser .....	1953
Ray Petersime .....	1947	John H. Good .....	1952

## MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

1920		1921	
B. F. Sharp .....	1923	L. A. Bookwalter .....	1924
Sylvan Bookwalter ....	1922	B. F. Sharp .....	1923
S. Z. Smith .....	1921	Sylvan Bookwalter ....	1922

1922		1931	
S. Z. Smith .....	1925	C. F. McKee .....	1934
L. A. Bookwalter .....	1924	C. L. Flory .....	1933
B. F. Sharp .....	1923	L. A. Bookwalter .....	1932
1923		1932	
B. F. Sharp .....	1926	Sylvan Bookwalter ....	1935
L. A. Bookwalter .....	1925	C. G. Erbaugh .....	1934
S. Z. Smith .....	1924	C. F. McKee .....	1933
1924		1933	
C. G. Erbaugh .....	1927	Hugh Cloppert .....	1936
Sylvan Bookwalter ....	1926	Sylvan Bookwalter ....	1935
L. A. Bookwalter .....	1925	C. G. Erbaugh .....	1934
1925		1934	
L. A. Bookwalter .....	1928	C. G. Erbaugh .....	1937
C. G. Erbaugh .....	1927	Hugh Cloppert .....	1936
Sylvan Bookwalter ....	1926	Sylvan Bookwalter ....	1935
1926		1935	
C. L. Flory .....	1929	G. O. Stutsman .....	1938
L. A. Bookwalter .....	1928	C. G. Erbaugh .....	1937
C. G. Erbaugh .....	1927	Hugh Cloppert .....	1936
1927		1936	
C. G. Erbaugh .....	1930	Hugh Cloppert .....	1939
C. L. Flory .....	1929	G. O. Stutsman .....	1938
L. A. Bookwalter .....	1928	C. G. Erbaugh .....	1937
1928		1937	
L. A. Bookwalter .....	1931	Ray O. Shank .....	1940
C. G. Erbaugh .....	1930	Hugh Cloppert .....	1939
C. L. Flory .....	1929	G. O. Stutsman .....	1938
1929		1938	
C. L. Flory .....	1932	G. O. Stutsman .....	1941
L. A. Bookwalter .....	1931	Ray O. Shank .....	1940
C. G. Erbaugh .....	1930	Hugh Cloppert .....	1939
1930		1939	
C. F. McKee .....	1933	Hugh Cloppert .....	1942
C. L. Flory .....	1932	G. O. Stutsman .....	1941
L. A. Bookwalter .....	1931	Ray O. Shank .....	1940



1940		1946	
G. L. Wine	1943	Lester E. Fike	1949
Hugh Cloppert	1942	Roy Teach	1948
C. F. McKee	1941	D. G. Berkebile	1947
1941		1947	
G. L. Wine	1944	Moyne Landis	1950
Hugh Cloppert	1943	Lester E. Fike	1949
C. F. McKee	1942	C. C. Sollenberger	1948
1942		1948	
Roy Teach	1945	Ray O. Shank	1951
D. G. Berkebile	1944	Moyne Landis	1950
G. L. Wine	1943	Lester E. Fike	1949
1943		1949	
G. L. Wine	1946	Lester E. Fike	1952
Roy Teach	1945	Ray O. Shank	1951
D. G. Berkebile	1944	Moyne Landis	1950
1944		1950	
D. G. Berkebile	1947	Moyne Landis	1953
G. L. Wine	1946	Lester E. Fike	1952
Roy Teach	1945	Ray O. Shank	1951
1945		1951	
Roy Teach	1948	Robert L. Sherfy	1954
D. G. Berkebile	1947	George W. Phillips	1953
G. L. Wine	1946	Moyne Landis	1952

## DISTRICT BOARD

1952-53		Mrs. Russell E. Helstern		1955
Moyne Landis, chairman	1955	Ross Noffsinger	1953	
George W. Phillips,		Dolar C. Ritchey	1953	
vice-chairman	1953	Glenn C. Rust	1954	
Kenneth G. Long	1953	Murray L. Wagner	1953	
Nevin Coppock	1954	L. John Weaver	1955	
J. Oliver Dearing	1954	1953-54		
Lester E. Fike	1955	J. Clyde Forney,		
J. Clyde Forney	1954	chairman	1954	
John H. Good	1955	Paul W. Kinsel,		
H. H. Helman	1954	vice-chairman	1956	

Philip H. Lauver, secretary . . . . .	1956	Paul W. Kinsel, vice-chairman . . . . .	1956
Nevin Coppock . . . . .	1954	Philip Lauver, secretary	1956
J. Oliver Dearing . . . . .	1954	Walter D. Bowman . . . .	1957
Lester E. Fike . . . . .	1955	Nevin Coppock . . . . .	1957
John H. Good . . . . .	1955	John H. Good . . . . .	1955
H. H. Helman . . . . .	1954	H. H. Helman . . . . .	1957
Mrs. Russell E. Helstern	1955	Mrs. Russell E. Helstern	1955
Perry L. Huffaker . . . . .	1955	Perry L. Huffaker . . . . .	1955
Ross Noffsinger . . . . .	1956	Otis I. Landis . . . . .	1957
Raymond R. Peters . . . .	1956	Ross Noffsinger . . . . .	1956
Dolar C. Ritchey . . . . .	1956	Raymond R. Peters . . . .	1956
Glenn C. Rust . . . . .	1954	Dolar C. Ritchey . . . . .	1956
L. John Weaver . . . . .	1955	Glenn C. Rust . . . . .	1957
1954-55		Roy B. Teach (ex. off.) .	1957
J. Clyde Forney, chairman . . . . .	1957	L. John Weaver . . . . .	1955

## BRETHREN HOME BOARD

1920		1923	
B. F. Studebaker . . . . .	1925	A. B. Miller . . . . .	1927
Jerry Hollinger . . . . .	1924	S. F. Studebaker . . . . .	1926
A. B. Miller . . . . .	1923	Levi Zumbrum . . . . .	1925
S. F. Studebaker . . . . .	1922	B. F. Studebaker . . . . .	1924
Levi Zumbrum . . . . .	1921	Jerry Hollinger . . . . .	1923
1921		1924	
Levi Zumbrum . . . . .	1926	I. M. Young . . . . .	1929
B. F. Studebaker . . . . .	1925	A. B. Miller . . . . .	1928
Jerry Hollinger . . . . .	1924	S. F. Studebaker . . . . .	1927
A. B. Miller . . . . .	1923	Levi Zumbrum . . . . .	1926
S. F. Studebaker . . . . .	1922	B. F. Studebaker . . . . .	1925
1922		1925	
S. F. Studebaker . . . . .	1927	B. F. Studebaker . . . . .	1930
Levi Zumbrum . . . . .	1926	I. M. Young . . . . .	1929
B. F. Studebaker . . . . .	1925	A. B. Miller . . . . .	1928
Jerry Hollinger . . . . .	1924	S. F. Studebaker . . . . .	1927
A. B. Miller . . . . .	1923	Levi Zumbrum . . . . .	1926



## 1926

J. B. Gump .....	1931
B. F. Studebaker .....	1930
I. M. Young .....	1929
S. C. Gnagey .....	1928
S. F. Studebaker .....	1927

## 1927

S. F. Studebaker .....	1932
J. B. Gump .....	1931
B. F. Studebaker .....	1930
I. M. Young .....	1929
S. C. Gnagey .....	1928

## 1928

S. C. Gnagey .....	1933
S. F. Studebaker .....	1932
J. B. Gump .....	1931
B. F. Studebaker .....	1930
I. M. Young .....	1929

## 1929

Levi Zumbrum .....	1934
S. C. Gnagey .....	1933
S. F. Studebaker .....	1932
J. B. Gump .....	1931
B. F. Studebaker .....	1930

## 1930

B. F. Studebaker .....	1935
Levi Zumbrum .....	1934
S. C. Gnagey .....	1933
S. F. Studebaker .....	1932
J. B. Gump .....	1931

## 1931

J. B. Gump .....	1936
B. F. Studebaker .....	1935
Levi Zumbrum .....	1934
S. C. Gnagey .....	1933
S. F. Studebaker .....	1932

## 1932

S. F. Studebaker .....	1937
J. B. Gump .....	1936
B. F. Studebaker .....	1935
Levi Zumbrum .....	1934
S. C. Gnagey .....	1933

## 1933

S. C. Gnagey .....	1938
S. F. Studebaker .....	1937
J. B. Gump .....	1936
B. F. Studebaker .....	1935
Levi Zumbrum .....	1934

## 1934

Levi Zumbrum .....	1939
S. C. Gnagey .....	1938
S. F. Studebaker .....	1937
J. B. Gump .....	1936
B. F. Studebaker .....	1935

## 1935

B. F. Studebaker .....	1940
Levi Zumbrum .....	1939
S. C. Gnagey .....	1938
S. F. Studebaker .....	1937
J. B. Gump .....	1936

## 1936

J. B. Gump .....	1941
B. F. Studebaker .....	1940
Levi Zumbrum .....	1939
S. C. Gnagey .....	1938
S. F. Studebaker .....	1937

## 1937

Hugh Blocher .....	1942
J. B. Gump .....	1941
B. F. Studebaker .....	1940
Levi Zumbrum .....	1939
S. C. Gnagey .....	1938

1938		1944	
S. C. Gnagey .....	1943	Frank Puterbaugh .....	1949
Hugh Blocher .....	1942	Harry Royer .....	1948
J. B. Gump .....	1941	Hugh Blocher .....	1947
B. F. Studebaker .....	1940	Roy Honeyman .....	1946
Levi Zumbrum .....	1939	B. F. Studebaker .....	1945
1939		1945	
Riley Wagoner .....	1944	Roy Studebaker .....	1950
S. C. Gnagey .....	1943	Frank Puterbaugh .....	1949
Hugh Blocher .....	1942	Harry Royer .....	1948
J. B. Gump .....	1941	Hugh Blocher .....	1947
B. F. Studebaker .....	1940	Roy Honeyman .....	1948
1940		1946	
B. F. Studebaker .....	1945	Roy Honeyman .....	1951
Riley Wagoner .....	1944	Roy Studebaker .....	1950
S. C. Gnagey .....	1943	Frank Puterbaugh .....	1949
Hugh Blocher .....	1942	Harry Royer .....	1948
J. B. Gump .....	1941	Hugh Blocher .....	1947
1941		1947	
Roy Honeyman .....	1946	Perry Eby .....	1952
B. F. Studebaker .....	1945	Roy Honeyman .....	1951
Riley Wagoner .....	1944	Roy Studebaker .....	1950
S. C. Gnagey .....	1943	Frank Puterbaugh .....	1949
Hugh Blocher .....	1942	Harry Royer .....	1948
1942		1948	
Hugh Blocher .....	1947	Harry Royer .....	1953
Roy Honeyman .....	1946	Perry Eby .....	1952
B. F. Studebaker .....	1945	Ira A. Oren .....	1951
Riley Wagoner .....	1944	Roy Studebaker .....	1950
S. C. Gnagey .....	1943	Frank Puterbaugh .....	1949
1943		1949	
Harry Royer .....	1948	Robert Honeyman .....	1954
Hugh Blocher .....	1947	Harry Royer .....	1953
Roy Honeyman .....	1946	Perry Eby .....	1952
B. F. Studebaker .....	1945	Ira A. Oren .....	1951
Riley Wagoner .....	1944	Roy Studebaker .....	1950



1950		Ira A. Oren .....	1955
Virgil Royer .....	1955	Virgil Royer .....	1954
Robert Honeyman .....	1954	Robert Honeyman .....	1953
Harry Royer .....	1953	1953	
Perry Eby .....	1952	Robert Honeyman .....	1958
Ira A. Oren .....	1951	Virgil Cassell .....	1957
1951		Emmert Studebaker ...	1956
Emmert Studebaker ...	1956	Ira A. Oren .....	1955
Ira A. Oren .....	1955	Virgil Royer .....	1954
Virgil Royer .....	1954	1954	
Robert Honeyman .....	1953	Virgil Royer .....	1959
Harry L. Royer .....	1952	Robert Honeyman .....	1958
1952		Virgil Cassel .....	1957
Virgil Cassell .....	1957	Emmert Studebaker ...	1956
Emmert Studebaker ...	1956	Ira A. Oren .....	1955

DISTRICT SUNDAY SCHOOL SECRETARY

A list of those who have served in this office is given on page 59.

MIDSUMMER ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE

1921  
Jacob Coppock  
D. G. Berkebile  
Levi Minnich

RELIGIOUS EDUCATIONAL BOARD

1922		1924	
Edward Miller .....	1925	D. G. Berkebile .....	1927
D. G. Berkebile .....	1924	J. C. Flora .....	1925
Levi Minnich .....	1923	Edward Miller .....	1924
Cyrus Funderburg, ex officio		1925	
1923		Edward Miller .....	1928
J. C. Flora .....	1926	J. O. Garst .....	1927
Edward Miller .....	1925	J. C. Flora .....	1926
J. O. Garst .....	1927	1926	
Cyrus Funderburg, ex officio		J. C. Flora .....	1929

Edward Miller .....	1928	J. O. Glick .....	1934
J. O. Garst .....	1927		1934
	1927	Roy Honeyman .....	1939
J. O. Garst .....	1930	Marley Karns .....	1938
J. C. Flora .....	1929	John H. Good .....	1937
Edward Miller .....	1928	Harold Stoner .....	1936
	1928	J. Perry Prather .....	1935
I. J. Blocher .....	1931		1935
J. O. Garst .....	1930	J. Perry Prather .....	1940
J. C. Flora .....	1929	Roy Honeyman .....	1939
	1929	Marley Karns .....	1938
G. E. Yoder .....	1932	John H. Good .....	1937
I. G. Blocher .....	1931	Harold Stoner .....	1936
J. O. Garst .....	1930		1936
	1930	Paul W. Kinsel .....	1943
E. S. Coffman .....	1933	J. Perry Prather .....	1940
G. E. Yoder .....	1932	Roy Honeyman .....	1939
I. G. Blocher .....	1932	Marley Karns .....	1938
Marley Karns .....	1932	John H. Good .....	1937
John Kneisly .....	1932		1937
	1931	John H. Good .....	1942
J. O. Glick .....	1934	Paul W. Kinsel .....	1941
E. S. Coffman .....	1933	J. Perry Prather .....	1940
G. E. Yoder .....	1932	Roy Honeyman .....	1939
Marley Karns .....	1932	Marley Karns .....	1938
John Kneisly .....	1932		1938
	1932	Marley Karns .....	1943
G. E. Yoder .....	1935	John H. Good .....	1942
J. O. Glick .....	1934	Paul W. Kinsel .....	1941
E. S. Coffman .....	1933	J. Perry Prather .....	1940
Marley Karns .....	1933	Roy Honeyman .....	1939
John Kneisly .....	1933		1939
	1933	E. R. Fisher .....	1944
Marley Karns .....	1938	Marley Karns .....	1943
John H. Good .....	1937	John H. Good .....	1942
Harold Stoner .....	1936	Paul W. Kinsel .....	1941
G. E. Yoder .....	1935	J. Perry Prather .....	1939



1940		1946	
J. Perry Prather .....	1945	Lowell Erbaugh .....	1951
E. R. Fisher .....	1944	W. Glenn McFadden ...	1950
Marley Karns .....	1943	E. R. Fisher .....	1949
John H. Good .....	1942	Emerson Brumbaugh ..	1948
Paul W. Kinsel .....	1941	Paul W. Kinsel .....	1947
1941		1947	
Lester Studebaker .....	1946	Dean Frantz .....	1952
J. Perry Prather .....	1945	Lowell Erbaugh .....	1951
E. R. Fisher .....	1944	W. Glenn McFadden ...	1950
Marley Karns .....	1943	E. R. Fisher .....	1949
John H. Good .....	1942	Emerson Brumbaugh ..	1948
1942		1948	
Paul W. Kinsel .....	1947	Emerson Brumbaugh ..	1953
Lester Studebaker .....	1946	Dean Frantz .....	1952
J. Perry Prather .....	1945	Lowell Erbaugh .....	1951
E. R. Fisher .....	1944	W. Glenn McFadden ...	1950
J. L. Baker .....	1943	E. R. Fisher .....	1949
1943		1949	
Emerson Brumbaugh ..	1948	James H. Beahm .....	1954
Paul W. Kinsel .....	1947	Emerson Brumbaugh ..	1953
Lester Studebaker .....	1946	Dean L. Frantz .....	1952
J. Perry Prather .....	1945	Ruth Funderburg .....	1951
E. R. Fisher .....	1944	W. Glenn McFadden ...	1950
1944		1950	
E. R. Fisher .....	1949	Kenneth Long .....	1955
Emerson Brumbaugh ..	1948	James H. Beahm .....	1954
Paul W. Kinsel .....	1947	Emerson Brumbaugh ..	1953
Lester Studebaker .....	1946	Dean L. Frantz .....	1952
J. Perry Prather .....	1945	Ruth Funderburg .....	1951
1945		1951	
W. Glenn McFadden ...	1950	Carl Noffsinger .....	1956
E. R. Fisher .....	1949	Ruth Funderburg .....	1955
Emerson Brumbaugh ..	1948	Kenneth G. Long .....	1954
Paul W. Kinsel .....	1947	J. Clyde Forney .....	1953
Lester Studebaker .....	1946	Emerson Brumbaugh ..	1952

## DISTRICT CONFERENCES AND OFFICERS

<i>Place and Moderator</i>	<i>Reader and Secretary</i>	<i>Delegates to Annual Conference</i>
1920		
Salem D. M. Garver	S. A. Blessing S. Z. Smith	S. A. Blessing L. A. Bookwalter
1921		
Eversole J. W. Fidler	L. A. Bookwalter C. L. Flory	J. W. Fidler D. M. Garver S. Z. Smith
1922		
Painter Creek S. A. Blessing	J. A. Robinson D. G. Berkebile	S. A. Blessing J. A. Robinson
1923		
Bear Creek D. M. Garver	J. W. Fidler C. L. Flory	J. W. Fidler D. G. Berkebile
1924		
New Carlisle J. A. Robinson	D. G. Berkebile R. N. Leatherman	J. A. Robinson D. G. Berkebile
1925		
Poplar Grove J. W. Fidler	C. L. Flory D. R. Murray	J. W. Fidler D. M. Garver L. A. Bookwalter
1926		
Prices Creek L. A. Bookwalter	R. N. Leatherman Ray O. Shank	L. A. Bookwalter D. M. Garver R. N. Leatherman
1927		
Trotwood C. L. Flory	D. G. Berkebile J. H. Eidemiller	C. L. Flory D. G. Berkebile J. W. Fidler
1928		
West Alexandria J. A. Robinson	R. N. Leatherman J. W. Fidler	J. A. Robinson R. N. Leatherman J. H. Eidemiller



## 1929

Donnels Creek	D. G. Berkebile	J. H. Eidemiller
J. H. Eidemiller	Van B. Wright	D. G. Berkebile
		Van B. Wright

## 1930

Eversole	E. S. Coffman	G. E. Yoder
J. W. Fidler	G. E. Yoder	J. W. Fidler
		L. A. Bookwalter

## 1931

Salem	C. L. Flory	L. A. Bookwalter
L. A. Bookwalter	Van B. Wright	C. L. Flory
		Van B. Wright

## 1932

Covington	E. S. Coffman	D. G. Berkebile
D. G. Berkebile	G. E. Yoder	J. W. Fidler
		G. E. Yoder

## 1933

Brookville	J. O. Glick	J. H. Eidemiller
C. L. Flory	J. H. Eidemiller	C. L. Flory
		J. O. Glick

## 1934

Castine	D. G. Berkebile	D. G. Berkebile
J. W. Fidler	J. H. Good	C. L. Flory
		J. H. Eidemiller

## 1935

Oakland	J. Perry Prather	J. Perry Prather
R. N. Leatherman	H. H. Helman	J. W. Fidler
		H. H. Helman

## 1936

Georgetown	G. O. Stutsman	G. O. Stutsman
D. G. Berkebile	J. H. Good	J. H. Good
		C. L. Flory

## 1937

Pitsburg	H. H. Helman	D. G. Berkebile
C. L. Flory	J. H. Good	J. W. Fidler
		H. M. Coppock

## 1938

West Milton	G. O. Stutsman	J. H. Good
J. H. Eidemiller	J. H. Good	G. O. Stutsman
		J. H. Eidemiller

## 1939

Trotwood	Ray O. Shank	Ray O. Shank
J. W. Fidler	J. H. Good	Hugh Cloppert
		D. G. Berkebile

## 1940

Happy Corner	J. Perry Prather	G. L. Wine
D. G. Berkebile	H. H. Helman	H. H. Helman
		J. Perry Prather

## 1941

New Carlisle	Roy B. Teach	E. R. Fisher
Hugh Cloppert	H. H. Helman	Ray O. Shank
		J. W. Fidler

## 1942

Salem	J. Perry Prather	E. R. Fisher
E. R. Fisher	H. H. Helman	Roy B. Teach
		H. M. Coppock

## 1943

Prices Creek	John H. Good	H. M. Coppock
Ray O. Shank	H. H. Helman	John H. Good
		G. L. Wine

## 1944

West Dayton	Fred Hollingshead	Ray O. Shank
J. W. Fidler	H. H. Helman	Fred Hollingshead
		J. W. Fidler

## 1945

Bear Creek	W. Glenn McFadden	Roy B. Teach
Roy B. Teach	H. H. Helman	J. H. Good
		W. Glenn McFadden

## 1946

Donnels Creek	Glenn C. Rust	Paul W. Kinsel
Paul W. Kinsel	J. H. Good	E. R. Fisher
		W. Glenn McFadden



## 1947

Oakland  
W. Glenn  
McFadden

Robert Sherfy  
J. H. Good

Ray O. Shank  
Moyne Landis  
E. R. Fisher

## 1948

Pleasant Hill  
E. R. Fisher

John Weaver  
John H. Good

Lester E. Fike  
J. H. Good  
Moyne Landis

## 1949

Pittsburg  
Moyne Landis  
Ass't., John D.  
Long

Dean L. Frantz  
Philip H. Lauver

Dean L. Frantz  
John D. Long  
Glenn C. Rust

## 1950

West Milton  
John D. Long  
Ass't., Dean L.  
Frantz

Ross Noffsinger  
Philip H. Lauver

Dean L. Frantz  
John D. Long  
Ray O. Shank

## 1951

New Carlisle  
Paul W. Kinsel  
Ass't., Moyne  
Landis

Kenneth G. Long  
Philip H. Lauver

Paul W. Kinsel  
Moyne Landis  
L. John Weaver

## 1952

East Dayton  
Moyne Landis  
Ass't., L. John  
Weaver

J. Oliver Dearing  
Philip H. Lauver

Nevin Coppock  
Kenneth G. Long  
George W. Phillips

## 1953

Covington  
J. Clyde Forney  
Ass't., George  
W. Phillips

Edward T. Angeny  
Philip H. Lauver

J. Oliver Dearing  
Joseph B. Flora  
J. H. Good

## 1954

West Milton  
Kenneth Long  
Ass't., Foster  
Bittinger

Allen Weldy  
Roy B. Teach

Foster Bittinger  
C. G. Erbaugh  
Homer Royer

### 3. THE ELDERS' BODY

The Elders' Body is the district organization which includes all the ordained elders. Except for some special cause, they are called together once each year, usually in connection with district meeting.

The early practice was to ordain a minister who had first served in the "first degree" and the "second degree" of the ministry. So far as can be determined, no one was ever ordained an elder who had not previously served in the elected or ordained ministry.

The ordination of an elder was, in the earliest practice, to qualify the minister to be the overseer of any church which should choose him as its elder. There seemed to be no noted relation between his ability in the pulpit and his election to the eldership. There seemed to be no attempt to keep the ratio of congregations and elders equal. The number of elders has consistently been greater than the number of congregations. Records of the elders' meetings show that in 1917 sixty-four elders were present and twenty-one absent—nearly double the number of churches. In 1927 fifty-eight were reported present and forty-two absent—again double the number of churches. The practice of recording the number of elders present and absent was discontinued in the early thirties. In 1923 a motion was passed that the wives of elders be invited to be present at the elders' meeting.

The local church had authority to ordain or refuse to ordain a minister to be an elder. The church, through the official board, could suggest the ordination. There has been a growing conviction in the church that there should be demonstration of able leadership before ordination takes place.

At first the elder had, by common consent, very unusual powers. As overseer of a church he had authority which exceeded that of any other member or officer. Yet the inherent



democracy of the church caused her to provide safeguards against unwarranted exercise of authority. For instance, in 1873 Annual Meeting provided that an elder could not expel a member or prevent full fellowship of a member in a church without the counsel of the church. In 1896 it also pointed out that no elder could assume oversight of a church except by the choice of the church.

On the other hand, the elder presiding over a church was understood to be responsible for the spiritual condition of the church. If he needed help in difficult situations he could ask it of the adjoining elders, and/or appeal to the Elders' Body. Conflicts between elders in a local church were resolved by the Elders' Body. Annual Meeting has exercised authority over an elder or elders in a local church but never over the Elders' Body of a district.

An elder in a local church seems to have been subject to discipline by the adjoining elders, if out of order. Later this function was exercised by the Elders' Body only, though charges could be brought by the adjoining elders.

In 1865 (Article 41) the Annual Meeting defined procedure in electing an elder. The request is first to be made by the local church and the elders present. Then each member votes individually and secretly. If there is no "serious objection" the ordination is to take place. In 1890 Annual Meeting provided that ordinations should be by authority of the Elders' Body of the district.

With the election of a ministerial board by the district the placing before the Elders' Body of names for ordination came to be the duty of this board. In 1917 Annual Meeting defined both the duties and the qualifications of elders and the duties of the ministerial boards with reference to the ordinations.

#### Article III. Instruction

3. The duties of the elder, in addition to the foregoing duties of the minister, are to feed the flock, to preside over council meetings, especially when official members are on trial, to anoint the sick, to have the oversight and general management of the church; training the young ministers in his charge and apportioning the work among them according to their experience and ability—in brief, to be a faithful shepherd to the flock, guarding their souls as one

who must give an account and be willing to serve in any capacity authorized by the church (Acts 20:28; I Tim. 5:17; Titus 1:5; James 5:14).

4. When the minister proves himself faithful and efficient in his office, he shall be ordained elder; and when ordained he shall pledge himself to live and labor in harmony with the accepted standards of the church in faith, doctrine, and practice (I Tim. 5:22; Titus 1:5; I Peter 5:3).
5. The duties of the minister to the church and in general also the duties of the church to the minister, shall be clearly set forth in a special sermon at the time of installation and ordination.

#### Article V. Management. (Duties of Ministerial Board)

5. To co-operate with churches in securing elders and pastors, and in severing these relations; also with elders, ministers and pastors in changing location. The Ministerial Boards, however, shall not be intrusive, acting with arbitrary authority; they shall be helpful.
6. To keep a record of the churches that desire elders and pastors, and also the names of elders, ministers, and pastors who desire change of location and work.

In this district requests for ordination were regulated by the report of a committee, appointed in 1923, to study the matter and report the next year. The report is contained in the minutes of the 1924 elders' meeting:

The Committee appointed by Elders' Meeting of 1923 beg to submit the following report on initial steps for ordination of elders:

We recommend, that in organized churches, the official board be consulted; if a majority favor the actions, then with the approval of the adjoining elders and the Ministerial Board of the District, the request may be presented to the annual Elders' Meeting.

The report was accepted.

In 1931 the elders' meeting decided that calls for ordinations should be in the hands of the District Ministerial Board by April 1 preceding the elders' meeting. (The elders' meeting is now held in the fall.) The Ministerial Board is replaced by that part of the District Board known as the Commission on Ministry, Missions and Church Extension.

The Elders' Body was apparently a development of the Standing Committee idea. The first district meetings held in Southern Ohio composed a standing committee from the elders present. Later when stated delegates represented the churches at the district meetings the function of the elders became that of pre-examining and advising on the queries



presented. The practice of churches sending elected delegates to district meetings was provided by an Annual Meeting decision of 1866: "These meetings shall be formed by one or two representatives from each organized church." So the elders then came to have an organization of their own. The date of the beginning of this practice in Southern Ohio is not known. The Elders' Body was recognized by Annual Meeting in 1890 when it decided that the majority of the elders in the elders' meeting should concur in the ordination of an elder. Thus the elders came to control the character and members of their body.

Besides acting in the capacity of a standing committee the Elders' Body also acted as the nominating committee for officers of district meeting and members of boards and committees. Vacancies on boards occurring between district meetings were also filled by the elders. The elders also received, reviewed, and acted upon matters presented by a district board. In 1915 the Southern Ohio Mission Board took a problem to the elders which was answered by action of the Elders' Body. In that same year an Annual Meeting committee, sent to deal with a problem arising in a local church in the district, asked the elders of Southern Ohio to appoint two from their body to assist in the problem. The district elders also referred local church problems to Standing Committee if conditions seemed to warrant it. The district elders could and did also refer difficulties to a district board, particularly to the Mission Board or the Ministerial Board, and also to the adjoining elders.

An unusual action of the Elders' Body in 1916 was the recommendation to the General Mission Board of a member (Elizabeth Weybright Oberholtzer) living in the district as a missionary to the China field.

It is noted also that the Elders' Body acted upon the dissolution of churches no longer active.

In 1920 the elders' meeting decided that the retiring moderator "continue to deliver an address to the elders." Later the guest speaker for district conference did this. Then the moderator-elect as at present. The record of the elders' meeting of 1930 shows that "the annual sermon to the elders





Southern Ohio Elders, November 1953



was brought by Elder Edward Frantz, editor of the Gospel Messenger."

For many years it was the responsibility of the elders' meeting to appoint the members of the credential committee.

In 1930 the elders' meeting decided to permit delegates to district meeting to be seated if the churches they represented had not paid their full apportionments to the district.

The Elders' Body acts to relieve men of the ministry upon cause.

It has decided when a matter may be proper business for a district meeting.

In 1947 the district conference asked the Elders' Body to nominate persons for district officers and Standing Committeemen. In 1948 the elders' meeting approved the budget to be presented to district meeting.

In 1951 the Elders' Body appointed one of its members to represent it in a study of the administration and organization of the district. The report of this committee brought about the organization of the present District Board, and provides that "the composition and function of the Elders' Body are those defined by decisions of Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren." (See the full report elsewhere.)

A church having difficulties with a pastor, a pastor having difficulties with a church, or a minority group within a church, may appeal their case to the Elders' Body.

The recent change which provides that an overseer (moderator) of a local church may be an able layman or an ordained minister has put these in the same status as an ordained elder, so far as this function is concerned—the function which at first called for ordination of elders. While this recent decision of Annual Meeting does not prevent an ordained elder from functioning as an overseer, it does raise the question now as to the real purpose of his ordination as an elder. This means that there is no difference now in the privilege and function of an ordained elder and an ordained minister except that the latter is not a member of the Elders' Body. However, a lay member who is the moderator of a church may be a member of the Elders' Body. The confusion

is indicated in a query to Annual Conference of 1952 asking that the functions of an elder be defined. Annual Conference has not yet given a definition.

There are no lay moderators in this district as of now, but at least one church has a layman as assistant moderator.

There is nothing to prevent a pastor being also the elder of his church, or one elder being moderator of more than one church.

The elder is considered a member of the official board of the local church whether he resides in the congregation or not.

A report on trends in the eldership in Southern Ohio made to the elders' meeting in 1953 by Elder Moyne Landis reveals:

1. The moderatorship of our churches is concentrated in a small percentage of the elders. 35%
2. Many elders have no assigned duties. 65%
3. The moderating of churches is falling into the hands of experienced pastors. 38% full-time; 28% part-time; total 68%.
4. Most of the moderators of Southern Ohio churches are not resident in the churches of which they are moderators.
  - 42 churches, or 78% have non-resident elders.
  - 8 churches, or 13% have resident moderators.
  - 4 churches, or 7% have their pastor as moderator.

There are ninety-three elders in Southern Ohio as of record as this is written. The largest number in one church is five. Eight churches have no resident elders in their membership.



4. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian education was considered a duty of parents and the home by the early Brethren. Some rather bitterly opposed the establishment of Sunday schools when they were first proposed. The proponents of schools pointed to the large number of Brethren children being lost to the church.

It was perhaps Pleasant Hill (the Newton church then) that organized the first Sunday school in the district soon after 1856. Harris Creek followed a bit later. Covington was reported to have started a school there in 1867. These churches were really pioneers in the Sunday-school movement among the Brethren west of the Ohio River. It soon became popular, and schools were established in most of the churches by the 1900's. The dates of the earlier organization of Sunday schools where available are given:

<i>Church</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Superintendent</i>
Pleasant Hill .....	1857	
Covington .....	1867	Samuel Murray
Lower Miami .....	1879	John Murray
Oakland .....	1883	Henry Longanacker
Harris Creek .....	1885	Jonas Miller
New Carlisle .....	1886	B. F. Filbrun
Donnels Creek .....	1886	
Wolf Creek .....	1886 to 1910, then became Brookville and Eversole	
Salem .....	1887	John H. Brumbaugh
Prices Creek .....	1888	Joseph Longanacker
Union City .....	1888	Elam Ferror

The record book of one of these schools shows that on July 14, 1889, the attendance was nine and the offering eight cents. The offerings for three months of that year totaled \$3.82. This is now one of the district's larger Sunday schools.

Typical of the methods by which a school was organized

is the experience of the Ludlow congregation, recorded in the history of the Painter Creek church published in 1941:

In 1887 the pressure to organize a Sunday School in our Ludlow congregation was brought before the council meeting and discussed pro and con. Elder Wm. Boogs of Covington, Ohio was present and encouraged the movement. When a vote was taken it was found that a majority favored organizing a Sunday School for the summer months at the Pittsburg house. Silas Gilbert and E. B. Bagwell were elected superintendents. There was no equipment and the selection of teachers was a big task. No one had any experience as a Bible teacher or Sunday School officer. From the best talent available in the Pittsburg and Painter Creek areas the teachers were selected. The lessons were to be taken from the new testament beginning with the first chapter of Matthew and taken in consecutive order. The publication of the Brethren's Quarterly was begun two years previous in 1885. Some of the older Brethren advised against the use of international lessons and printed lesson helps fearing some questionable doctrine might be presented. No public offering was to be taken as it was considered wrong to handle money in God's house. For a while Sunday Schools were held only in the afternoon. Later permission was given to have the school in the morning before the preaching service. The enrollment the first summer was 300, average attendance 119. On September 25th, the Sunday School was closed for the winter months. Roads were usually bad during the winter and closed buggies were not in general use. In the spring of 1888 and again in the spring of 1889 the Sunday School was reorganized each year with an increased attendance with practically the same teaching force. John Neher was elected as Superintendent. While the school grew in attendance and efficiency it was closed when winter came.

The schools were soon moving toward teacher training. Weekly teachers' meetings were held between Sundays and someone proceeded to lead the group on how to teach the lessons. From considering the current lessons it became a kind of normal class, discussing teaching methods and materials in general.

Then someone conceived the idea of a district-wide training program, and the Sidney church asked district meeting of 1899 "to grant the holding of a Sunday School meeting somewhere in the district; and appoint a committee of five members, (Sunday School workers) to arrange for a program of said Sunday School meeting." The meeting granted the request and in the appointment of a committee of five designated one to serve as Sunday-school secretary for five



years. Appointed was Levi Minnich, who thus began a long period of service to the Sunday schools of Southern Ohio. The next year the district meeting decided that the meetings should be continued and also that a ministerial meeting should be held in connection with the Sunday-school meeting. In 1902 the Sunday-school meeting was held at the Salem church. Here Catherine Hollinger and Charles A. Bame discussed *The Normal Class*. This stimulated the idea that the Sunday-school meeting should be patterned after the teachers' institutes in the public schools. So in 1903 it was decided to have semiannual teachers' institutes, give instruction in the lesson materials and in methods of teaching, in normal work and textbooks which were recommended. However, after one year it was returned to an annual affair with more sessions. It came to be held quite generally in August. A sample program, that of 1909, will enable the reader to understand the import of these institutes:

THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL MEETING

To be held at Trotwood, Tuesday and Wednesday  
August 24 and 25, 1909

\* \* \* \* \*

Tuesday evening, business session, followed by a sermon,  
"The Fundamental Needs of the Hour in Sunday-  
School Work." ..... D. S. Filbrun

\* \* \* \* \*

Wednesday, August 25—Forenoon Session, 8 o'clock  
Devotional Exercises

1. Teacher Training
- (a) The Need ..... O. P. Haines
- (b) How? ..... Earl Neff
2. The Primary and Intermediate Classes
- (a) Their Needs ..... Martha Guenther
- (b) Methods ..... Anna Eby
3. How Can the Sunday-School Implant into the Hearts  
of our Young People the Bible Doctrines of
- (a) Christian Living ..... Herbert Richards
- (b) Christian Adornment ..... Fern Morningstar
4. Personal Work in Sunday-School ..... Allen Weimer
- 5 Is It Nothing to You? ..... Carl Patten

OFFERING—11:30 A.M.  
Afternoon Session

## SHORT TALKS FROM OUR MISSIONARY SISTERS

Ida Erbaugh

Mina Hollinger

Ada Eby

6. Sunday-School as a Missionary Factor—the Relation  
of the Sunday-School to the Mission Work of the  
Church ..... John W. Fidler  
..... J. Franklin Brubaker

## ROUND TABLE

1. Shall We Affiliate with Township, County and State Sunday-School Associations? Why?
2. Do Results from the Home Department Justify Us for the Efforts?
3. What Are the Merits of the Twentieth Century Record System?
4. How Long Should S. S. Officers Be Retained?
5. What Do Our Sunday-Schools Need Most?
6. By What Standard Shall Our Sunday-School Teachers be Selected?
7. What Are Sunday-School Ruts?
8. What Should Be the Length of a Recitation?
9. Is it Wise to Have Written Tests Occasionally?
10. What Constitutes an Ideal Sunday-School?

Bring your "Song Praises"

Mina Hollinger, Chorister

Wm. Minnich, Moderator  
Jesse Noffsinger  
Catherine Hollinger  
Chas. L. Flory, Secretary  
Committee

The institutes were held annually until 1931, when they were discontinued by the Board of Religious Education and there was substituted a leadership training school in connection with the summer assembly. The courses of study were to be such as to give teacher-training credits to those who desired them. At the same time this board appointed key workers to serve the age-group leaders and teachers of the district, namely, a director of children's work, a director of young people's work, and a director of adult work. The leadership training schools never were in essence discontinued, a part of the function being carried by the superintendents' conferences and later by the annual workers' conference. The first superintendents' conference of record was held at Covington on November 2, 1926. There is record of these conferences up to 1949.



<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Speakers</i>
Covington	November 2, 1926	Galen B. Royer
West Charleston	November 15, 1927	
Salem	April 24, 1928	M. J. Brougher
Sugar Grove	September 28, 1928	M. J. Brougher
Brookville	April 23, 1929	
West Milton	October 29, 1929	J. A. Buffenmyer
New Carlisle	April 22, 1930	Dan West
Oakland	November 6, 1930	J. O. Click
Salem	June 28, 1932	C. F. McKee
Happy Corner	May 5, 1933	D. W. Kurtz
West Charleston	October 26, 1933	R. H. Nicodemus
West Milton	May 8, 1934	J. Perry Prather
Oakland	October 30, 1934	G. L. Wine
New Carlisle	May 14, 1935	H. H. Helman
Trotwood	October 29, 1935	R. N. Leatherman
Covington	May 12, 1936	Ray O. Shank
Mack Memorial	October 20, 1936	Frank Slutz
Bradford	May 11, 1937	Roy K. Miller
		G. L. Wine
Pittsburg	October 12, 1937	Galen Royer
		H. H. Helman
Beaver Creek	April 26, 1938	Roy B. Teach
Brookville	October 26, 1938	N. B. Wine
Gratis	May 1, 1939	M. J. Brougher
New Carlisle	November 1, 1939	F. C. Hollingshead
Bradford	April 30, 1940	Galen B. Royer
Happy Corner	November 12, 1940	S. S. Blough
		J. Perry Prather
Bear Creek	October 28, 1941	August M. Hintz
Oakland	October 28, 1941	H. L. Hartsough
Prices Creek	October 13, 1942	W. Glenn McFadden
		John Grimley
Trotwood	October 26, 1943	Roy D. Boaz
Salem	October 24, 1944	Raymond R. Peters
Pleasant Hill	November 7, 1945	John Long
Lower Miami	November 11, 1946	C. D. Bonsack
Happy Corner	April 8, 1947	Russell V. Bollinger

Brookville	November 4, 1947	Harold Miller Paul Halladay
Pleasant Hill	November 2, 1948	Charles Zunkel
Covington	May 3, 1949	Norman Gutrie
Brookville	October 31, 1949	James Renz

By this time there were fifty-three Sunday schools in the district with an enrollment of seven thousand nine hundred eight-one, including seven hundred nineteen officers and teachers. The offerings totaled \$16,977.71. Schools were listed as Standard, Honor, and Banner.

Reports of local school average attendance for the years 1898, 1908, 1918, 1928, 1938, and 1948 will give a fair picture of the schools at ten-year intervals.

<i>Church</i>	<i>Average Attendance</i>					
	1898	1908	1918	1928	1938	1948
Bear Creek .....	100	100	118	176	214	176
Beaver Creek .....	43	60	—	98	122	149
Beech Grove .....	53	56	71	88	113	110
Bethany .....	—	—	—	—	25	22
Bethel .....	100	128	192	260	288	297
Bradford .....	—	—	95	118	116	158
Brookville .....	—	60	157	207	190	214
Castine .....	50	40	80	95	70	102
Cedar Grove .....	41	27	37	30	25	50
Charleston .....	—	—	—	—	50	27
Cincinnati .....	—	—	28	60	70	52
Circleville .....	14	—	67	70	100	84
Columbus .....	—	—	—	—	62	56
Constance .....	—	38	37	35	66	55
Covington .....	80	142	342	300	211	235
Donnels Creek .....	40	82	85	79	88	104
East Dayton .....	43	45	76	132	238	240
Eaton .....	—	—	—	69	114	167
Eversole .....	—	63	89	118	113	138
Fort McKinley .....	—	106	84	152	177	168
Gratis .....	—	—	39	39	100	75
Greenville .....	—	102	117	143	149	139
Hamilton .....	—	—	—	29	82	—
Happy Corner .....	—	—	—	90	130	166
Harris Creek .....	159	140	112	110	104	67
Lower Miami .....	54	80	100	94	118	108
Mack Memorial .....	124	132	131	254	188	108
Marble Furnace .....	18	32	22	32	31	35
Middle District .....	40	40	40	82	123	67



Middletown .....	—	25	53	63	79	98
New Carlisle .....	40	57	148	229	202	195
Oakland .....	154	100	120	150	185	169
Painter Creek .....	140	137	107	130	172	132
Piqua .....	—	—	117	145	163	162
Pittsburg .....	80	114	100	130	144	173
Pleasant Hill .....	75	145	143	155	180	212
Pleasant Valley .....	53	44	51	90	67	44
Poplar Grove .....	90	104	97	88	85	90
Potsdam .....	80	61	92	153	175	183
Prices Creek .....	58	87	101	107	125	165
Red River .....	109	63	72	67	40	62
Sidney .....	55	83	120	150	120	159
Springfield .....	—	—	60	100	129	165
Stonelick .....	—	—	27	26	25	—
Strait Creek .....	26	20	24	32	10	30
Trotwood .....	—	85	119	245	231	233
Troy .....	—	—	31	63	134	163
Union City .....	40	65	70	143	147	138
West Alexandria .....	—	—	—	123	107	113
West Charleston .....	—	50	112	61	75	70
West Milton .....	—	85	100	134	165	166

In 1902 a call came to district meeting to ask Annual Meeting to provide for the publishing of special Brethren lessons. It was lost but it is indicative of the thinking of the members on the problem of adequate Christian education. In 1903 the matter of having the Sunday schools support a missionary came before district meeting and carried.

It will be noted above that when the Sunday-school committee was appointed one member was made secretary for a period of five years. Those who served, as revealed by the records available, were: Levi Minnich, 1899-1909; Charles Flory, 1909-10; Edward Miller, 1910-13; John Eikenberry, 1913-16; Ira Blocher, 1916-21; Cyrus Funderburg, 1921-24.

In 1923 the Board of Religious Education secured the part-time services of John Robinson to act as director of religious education. This office absorbed the work of the Sunday-school secretary in 1924. On March 1, 1925, Brother Robinson became the full-time director; he served until December 1929. Difficulty in financing the work was given as the reason for discontinuing it.

Norman B. Wine became the part-time director in 1930.

In that year came the appointment of age-group directors as noted above. Norman Wine was director of adult work; Mrs. Orion Erbaugh, director of children's work; Mark Shellhaas, director of young people. These were to serve as associate members of the Board of Religious Education. In 1932 Joe M. Wise was appointed director of adult work; he served until 1950, being succeeded by Drue D. Funderburg, who still serves, but now as director of leadership training.

The sequence of functional organizations to serve Christian education seems to have been in this order: Sunday-school meeting; Sunday-school institute; leadership training school; superintendents' conference; workers' conference; school of Christian living.

The school of Christian living is but a few years old, but it is one of the district activities that is meeting with wide approval and success.

Following are the program and the instructors for the school of 1953:

*School of Christian Living*

February 2, 9, 16, 25, March 2, 1953

Monday evenings

7:30

Salem Church of the Brethren

Bible Course, The Book of Acts .....	James M. Moore
The Christian Family .....	Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Long
Teaching Methods .....	Russell Helstern
Church Music .....	P. L. Huffaker

Two fifty minute sessions

In 1954 the same Mondays were used, and it was held at the Troy church. The courses were:

Today's Rural Christian Community .....	Ross Noffsinger
How to Become a More Effective	

Church School Teacher .....	Russell V. Bollinger
Paul's Letters to the Corinthians .....	R. H. Miller
Learning to Pray .....	T. Wayne Rieman

The original Sunday-school Committee later became known as the Sunday-school Board, then the Board of Religious Education, which, in turn, became the Board of Christian Education. In the organization of the District Board,



created in 1952, the work of Christian education is directed by the Commission on Christian Education.

The scope of these functional boards has varied through the years. It has included temperance education, vacation Bible schools, welfare work, relief work, peace education, men's work, Brethren Service, camping, youth work, service to conscientious objectors, and the publication of the *Southern Ohio Herald*.

For three and a half years the board sponsored a daily-devotion booklet, *Walking With God Today*, which reached a circulation of six thousand five hundred and went to all parts of the Brotherhood. It was discontinued in 1946 and the *Gospel Messenger* took over this function.

Records of the holding of vacation Bible schools are lacking, but the first schools were perhaps in 1920 at Poplar Grove and Arlington, another following at Bear Creek the same year, after which they became rather common throughout the district.

Burton Metzler was the leader in these named, assisted by Ruth Blocher Mallott and Alice Lehman Hershey.

The *Herald* was begun in 1925 with John A. Robinson acting as editor and business manager. The editors to date have been:

J. A. Robinson . . . . .	1925-29	H. H. Helman . . . . .	1935-46
G. E. Yoder . . . . .	1930	Virginia Stoner . . . . .	1946-47
N. B. Wine . . . . .	1931	E. R. Risher . . . . .	6 months 1947
G. E. Yoder . . . . .	1932-33	Mrs. Lowell	
J. O. Click . . . . .	1933-34	Noffsinger . . . . .	1948-51
J. Perry		Etoile Sargent . . . . .	1952-54
Prather . . . . .	6 months 1935	Moyne Landis . . . . .	1954—

From January 1, 1935, to the present time Joe M. Wise has been business manager. The *Herald* is published quarterly and has varied from four to eight pages through the years. It is sent to the Sunday schools by subscription and has had a circulation up to two thousand three hundred copies.

## 5. BRETHREN SERVICE

Ivan Eikenberry served as the first director of Brethren Service in the district. In the minutes of district conference of 1942 he is listed as the representative of the General Boards and Brethren Service, with the term of his office expiring in 1945. However, in 1941 the officers of the conference reported the action of a special district conference, held at West Milton on January 20, 1941, as follows:

(1) That we approve the efforts of the Brethren Service Committee to care for the conscientious objectors and vote full cooperation with the committee in every way.

That E. R. Fisher be the district secretary representing this work in Southern Ohio.

In 1951 district conference authorized the formation of a Brethren Service Committee to work with the director. This committee was composed of the Brethren Service director, the Women's Work peace director, a Men's Work representative, a CBYF representative, and any members of the Brethren Service Commission of the General Brotherhood Board residing in the district. This committee functioned for just over a year, and was replaced by the Brethren Service Commission under the District Board in the reorganization of the district work in 1952.

For a number of years Everett Fisher served as peace director for the district. In this capacity he reported to the district conference of 1942: "In March the Brethren Service representatives of the districts were called to a meeting at Ft. Wayne." This is the first record of the district representing on the Brethren Service program as such. He also reported: "Our district gave since January 1, 1941, \$20,174.20 to Brethren Service and relief. This does not reach the goal of two dollars per member. . . . Our district goal for next year should be at least \$25,000.00." As noted above, Brother Fisher was also the official representative of the district on Brethren Service.



The peace director and the Brethren Service director co-operated in many phases of the work, and the functions of the two were later co-ordinated in the Brethren Service Commission.

These directors, and other persons as well, represented the district in a number of regional meetings on peace and relief. In 1944 and 1945 such meetings were held at Nappanee, Fort Wayne, and Camp Mack. Early in 1951 the Brethren Service director and George Phillips attended a three-day training conference for peace counselors at Camp Mack.

In 1947 ten persons from Southern Ohio, representing men, women, and youth, attended a peace study conference at New Windsor and spent some time in Washington interviewing Congressmen and other officials.

In 1941 nine persons from our district attended a state-wide conference on peace held at Camp Owens, Marietta, Ohio.

A number of district conferences and training sessions were held for relief and peace information and training. In January 1941, sectional conferences on peace and relief were held in the Fort McKinley, West Dayton, Troy, Eaton, and Greenville churches. The leaders for these conferences were A. Stauffer Curry and Mark Schrock.

All-day training sessions for local peace counselors were held at the Fort McKinley and Pitsburg churches in April 1951.

During 1951 a series of four conferences were held. At the Potsdam church Don Timmerman and Chalmer Faw presented the general peace principles of the church; at the Salem church the draft was discussed by A. Stauffer Curry; at the Trotwood church Dan West spoke on the philosophy of peace; and at the Brookville church W. Harold Row discussed Brethren Service and relief. Attendance at these conferences averaged above three hundred.

The Brethren Service director repeatedly urged the district to oppose universal military training and conscription by letters and telegrams to Congressmen. In 1941 the district sent L. John Weaver to testify before the House Armed Services Committee of our opposition to universal military training. Others have been sent since then.

The peace director promoted, also, the use of a series of lessons on peace in our Sunday schools.

L. John Weaver, as Brethren Service director and now as chairman of the Commission on Brethren Service, has provided much valuable assistance to many Southern Ohio Brethren young men in their problems arising from the draft—especially those problems encountered in securing a conscientious objector classification.

The district reorganization in 1952 included the promotion of rural life values with other responsibilities of the Commission on Brethren Service. To promote this interest a rural life conference was held in February 1953 with the Reverend J. P. Hendrix, a rural pastor, and the Reverend Clyde Rogers of the Ohio Council of Churches as leaders.

The heifers-for-relief project was first sponsored by the Men's Work, beginning about 1942. In early 1944 an enlarged committee to administer this program was recommended, and as a result the Board of Christian Education approved this first committee: Ira Blocher, Emmett Burnett, Hugh Cloppert, Jacob Couser, Vern Dull, Chester George, Paul Getz, Harry Peters, Jr., Galen Barnhart, and Ivan Eikenberry, the Brethren Service director. Since that time the Brethren Service director has worked with this project and has done much promotion on it. Chester George, Elden Yohe, and Ralph Delk served at various times as the secretary of this project, and at the present time Ralph Hunn is the secretary.

In July 1944 the first two heifers for relief left Southern Ohio. These two heifers, from Brookville and Beech Grove, were sent to Puerto Rico.

In 1945 a shipment of sixteen heifers was made to the sharecroppers in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Ira Blocher and Ivan Patterson accompanied this shipment.

In May and June 1949 two shipments totaling twenty-three heifers were made to Venezuela for the use of European displaced persons resettling there. Elden Yohe and L. John Weaver accompanied these two shipments, which were made by airplane.

Exact figures on the number of heifers sent from Southern Ohio do not seem to be available, but indications are that the



total is above five hundred. It was reported to the 1946 conference that "over one hundred seventy-seven heifers have left this district."

Southern Ohio has done much in the way of material aid for the needy. In 1944 over eleven thousand cut-out garments were made by the women of the district (one thousand three hundred sixty-four of these by one church). In 1946 the Oakland church alone canned over eighteen thousand cans of food for relief. The district meeting report for 1947 indicates that more than forty-seven thousand three hundred cans of food were sent in the previous year.

In 1945 Southern Ohio was asked to provide thirty tons of wheat flour or cornmeal. Fifteen thousand dollars in money and wheat was given. In 1946 eight carloads of wheat and two carloads of corn were given.

Figures provided by the relief center at Nappanee indicate that during 1950, 1951, and 1952 Southern Ohio sent in to that center more than thirty-two tons of clothing, food, and grease.

A special drive for shoes for relief, growing out of the sectional peace meetings of January 1947, sent eleven thousand pairs of shoes to the Dayton Church World Service center.

The Brethren were responsible for and provided much assistance in the opening of a Church World Service relief center in Dayton in 1945. In the first six weeks of its operation the Brethren people sent in over five tons of clothing. Until this center closed in 1948 Brethren people provided many hours of volunteer labor. Special recognition in this should be given to Walter Denlinger of the Eaton church, who gave more than a month of volunteer labor in setting up and directing the beginnings of the work.

Four auctions-for-relief were held in 1946 and 1947: one in Preble County, one in Darke County, one in Miami County, and one at the Vern Dull farm sponsored by four Montgomery County churches. Reports indicated that the Darke County sale netted \$7,000. The Miami County sale, held on February 22, 1947, had an estimated attendance of three thousand. The proceeds of the sale and the lunch stand, cash, and the value of relief goods given through the sale totaled approximately \$14,628.

In May 1946 Ray Petersime of the Oakland church accompanied a flight of hatching eggs to Poland. One hundred fifty-eight cases were provided by Northern Indiana, Northeastern Ohio, and Southern Ohio. Seven hundred forty-two dozen of these eggs were from Southern Ohio. UNRRA provided the transportation from the Vandalia airport. The eggs were packed under Mr. Petersime's supervision by members of the Oakland church.

In March 1953 special efforts were made to send glass cans to Greece. The Brethren Service center at Nappanee cooperated by having the truck make two special trips for the cans. Eighteen churches reported sending a total of eleven thousand three hundred forty cans. The truck driver's estimate of the total collection indicates that approximately sixteen thousand cans were sent.

In the summers of 1945 and 1946 the Brethren Service director, working with J. Edward Hershberger and Mrs. Elizabeth Hartman of Dayton, was instrumental in placing approximately sixty Negro children in Brethren homes for a stay of from ten days to two weeks.

Many individuals have served in the relief and service program beyond the borders of Southern Ohio. By the summer of 1945 nine persons had already served as cattle and horse attendants on UNRRA shipments. The number was large through 1946, and still continues, though fewer persons are being used now. The complete list of names will be found elsewhere.

Franklin Wallick and Ivan Patterson spent eighteen months as members of an UNRRA tractor unit in China.

In the summer of 1949 the Pleasant Hill church designated \$1,000 from a memorial fund which it administers to be used in rebuilding a church somewhere in Germany. This gift made possible a work camp in Hamburg, and the Pleasant Hill church sent Jean West, one of its young people, to attend the work camp.

In May of 1952 Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Inman of the Bradford church went to Germany; Mr. Inman supervised the construction of the Kassel House. They expected to be gone "eight months or longer." Their stay lasted twenty months.



In 1953 C. E. Hunn of the Bear Creek church, a plumber, gave two months of volunteer labor on the Kassel House.

Three young people have completed eighteen-month terms of volunteer service in Europe and several are now there. A still larger group has participated in overseas summer work camps. Elsewhere will be found the list from Southern Ohio who served in Brethren Volunteer Service.

In 1939 the Council of Boards brought the following recommendation to the district conference:

First, that a committee be appointed to study the German refugee problem.

Second, that this committee be authorized to act in conjunction with any action taken by the General Boards or the Annual Conference.

The recommendation was adopted and John Oliver, E. R. Fisher, and Russell Helstern were appointed.

The following year, 1940, the committee made the following report:

The General Boards turned the matter of war relief, German refugees, and peace education over to the General Mission Board and the Board of Christian Education. These two boards in turn appointed an executive committee of five members to act for them, which committee is to be called the Brethren's Service Committee. This committee recommends to the brotherhood that the churches raise funds for war relief; that our colleges be challenged to aid refugee students; that individuals, churches, districts or groups of churches consider the placing and aiding of refugee families.

In keeping with these suggestions we have made appeals to the churches of our district to find a vacant house that might be rented for a refugee family. No house was found and this made it impossible to go further. We believe our district ought to continue to seek for such a house. We think the resettlement of some family who is the victim of war would be a fitting way to show our desire to atone for the evils of war and to serve suffering humanity. There is opportunity for assisting the American Friends Service Committee in getting families located for whom they have already signed affidavits of support. In Cuba there are many refugees who will need sponsors waiting for entrance into the United States. There would be some expense involved in this work. However, it is our expectation that these families would soon become self-supporting. We hope the way might soon be opened up to do something. Our ancestors were once refugees, driven from their homes. Kindly hands were extended to them to find a new home in America. Surely we should not turn a deaf ear to

these who are now being driven from their homeland. As to the matter of expense we suggest that when the need arises we appeal directly to the churches for help until some more systematic way of aiding them might be worked out.

During the year it was learned that a refugee student at Manchester College who had been aided during the first of the year by another group would need help for the spring term. The college is giving the tuition to these students. This matter was presented to the Brookville peace meeting in March and \$72.08 was raised. The Darke County Refugee Committee gave the remaining amount, \$2.92, of the \$75.00 needed.

The college now has five students on the campus who are from refugee families. Others could be brought to the college if someone would help in paying board, room and incidental fees. The amount needed would be \$225 for the school year.

We, therefore, recommend that our district raise the sum of \$225 to support a refugee student at Manchester College next year. We suggest that this money be raised by the churches at the rate of 2¼c per member.

E. R. Fisher, Russell Helstern, John Oliver

The report was accepted and the conference voted to apportion \$225, or two and one fourth cents per member, among the churches for student refugees. The committee was continued.

Two Manchester students, German refugees, were presented, and spoke briefly. They were introduced by E. R. Fisher as Miss Ursulla Bundy and Miss Sibine Heller.

The Board of Christian Education strengthened the refugee movement by recommending in its report to the 1940 district conference "that we find a place to locate a refugee family in our district." It was adopted.

The next year the German Refugee Committee made the following report: "During the past year \$104.58 was collected from thirty-three churches. This has gone to the support of Stefan Kaufmann, who is a junior at Manchester College."

The committee requested that its work be taken over by the Brethren Service Committee. This was the decision of the conference.

In 1950 the Brethren Service representative, L. John Weaver, reported to conference: "Displaced persons (DP's) deserve wider support. Ray Petersime, of Gettysburg, who has led the nation in assisting DP's, will help with plans. . . . Each church is challenged to have one family or more."



Also at this Conference (1950) Southern Ohio churches had given assurances for one hundred twenty families. The committee had also received forty-eight assurances from other denominations, and it had sent assurances totaling eight hundred seventy-eight for churches throughout the area. Twenty Southern Ohio churches were reported to have DP's located in their congregations, and four were waiting for the assignment of DP's.

As of July 11, 1953, the committee reported as follows:

Total number of DP's and Volksdeutsche arrived on Southern Ohio Church of the Brethren assurances .....	308
Total number of DP's and Volksdeutsche arrived on assurances of other denominations in Southern Ohio District sent through Southern Ohio Committee .....	125
Total number of DP's and Volksdeutsche arrived on assurances sent through Southern Ohio Committee but located in other districts of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois, New Jersey, and New York .....	225
	<hr/> 658
Total number of DP's and Volksdeutsche on assurances sent through Southern Ohio Committee .....	1,110

Southern Ohio churches that have taken an active part in the Displaced Persons Resettlement Program are:

Bear Creek .....	6	Potsdam .....	4
Bradford .....	3	Salem .....	13
Brookville .....	3	Sidney .....	3
Cedar Grove .....	2	Trotwood .....	5
Donnels Creek .....	24	Troy .....	6
Fort McKinley .....	2	Pleasant Hill .....	6
Greenville .....	3	Springfield .....	
Middle District .....	8	Gratis .....	
New Carlisle .....	7	Poplar Grove .....	
Oakland (resettled at or through) .....	200	Beaver Creek .....	
Pleasant Valley .....	13	Lower Stillwater .....	
		West Dayton .....	

Also up to the close of 1953 a total of forty-nine exchange students have lived in Brethren homes in Southern Ohio.

L. John Weaver

Nevin Coppock

Ray M. Petersime, chairman

The record of the district in the field of Brethren Service is thus seen to be very commendable.

## 6. WOMEN'S WORK

From Sisters' Aid Society to Women's Work to Women's Work Council; from a single district secretary to a Board of Aid Societies to a Cabinet of Women's Work; from a bit of sewing and chatting to flood and hunger relief to missions, homebuilding, Bible study, peace, temperance, and children. These mark the sure and steady growth of the work of the women of the district and the scope of their interests.

The work of the women, first known only as the Aid Society, was well established in the district soon after the turn of the century. Available records would indicate that the first aid society in Southern Ohio was organized in the Covington church in 1893, followed by West Dayton in 1895, New Carlisle in 1900, Greenville in 1901, Salem and Trotwood in 1902, East Dayton and Pleasant Hill (Newton) in 1903, and Hickory Grove (West Charleston), Oakland, and Painter Creek in 1904.

Up to 1912 there seems to have been no district activity. In that year Mina H. Bosserman, the first district secretary, perhaps elected that year, gave a report of the local societies for 1912. It was the first record kept. Photostatic copies of the report were secured and are shown here.

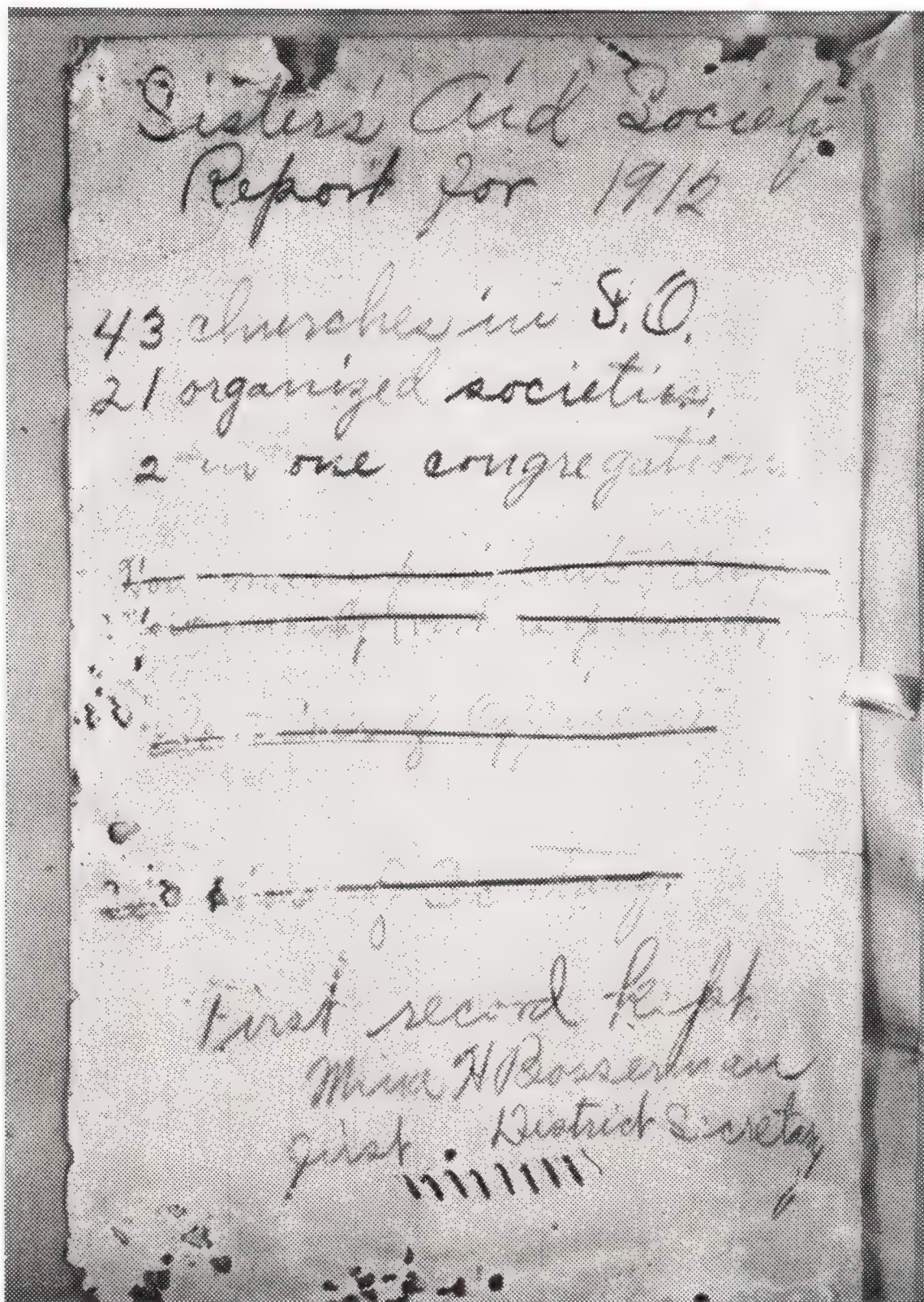
In 1913 the Circleville church asked for district meeting to authorize a district-wide meeting of the women of the aid societies, to be held in connection with some other district convention, "in which to have a meeting such as will promote better, more systematic and far-reaching work." The request was granted and committees on ministerial and Sunday-school meetings were directed to plan for such meetings.

The next year, 1914, the women asked district meeting to elect a district secretary of the Sisters' Aid Society. It was passed, and Catherine Hollinger of Greenville was elected.

The new secretary made her first report to district conference in 1915. In the report were listed, along with other



items: three churches not heard from; one church quoted Matthew 6:3; fifteen churches sent twenty-five cents' fee; meetings held, four hundred twelve; monies received, \$874.84;



When Women's Work Was Sisters' Aid

A worn early record of interest over forty years later

paid foreign missions \$70; paid home missions \$91; three new organizations. The report was gratefully accepted with this notation following: "This District Conference grants that the price of providing a bed in the China Boys School be pledged; the pledges to be given through the local Aid Societies."

From here on annual reports were made to district conferences. In 1918 the report was given by Mrs. Levi Minnich, district secretary *pro tem*. In 1919 Mrs. Mina Bosserman was secretary; her report showed the work of the local societies







appointed by the district meeting, to be known as the Official Board of Aid Societies of Southern Ohio. One was to be the secretary-treasurer.

The first committee was Mrs. Levi Minnich, Mrs. Mina Bosserman, and Mrs. Levi Zumbrum.

The succeeding members elected were: Mrs. Edward C. Funderburg, 1922; Mrs. J. A. Robinson, 1923; Mrs. Levi Minnich, 1924; Mrs. Van B. Wright, 1925; Mrs. J. A. Robinson, 1926; Mrs. Levi Minnich, 1927; Mrs. Van B. Wright, 1928; Mrs. J. A. Robinson, 1929; Mrs. Charles Zunkel, 1929.

After 1930 there was no report of who the officers were, since the women asked that year for the privilege of electing their own officers. In 1930 the report appeared as of "Women's Work," by which name reports appeared thereafter. By 1939 the officers changed the organization to include one woman selected to represent aid societies, another mothers and daughters, another peace and temperance, and another missions. In 1941 they reported a cabinet with officers representing aid society, missions, mothers and daughters, Bible study, and peace and temperance. Now members of the cabinet represent aid, missions, homebuilders, Bible study, peace and temperance, Bethany Hospital, and children.

The reports for all these years indicate a continued interest in home and foreign missions. Supplies and equipment were provided for Camp Sugar Grove after its establishment. In 1942 the women approved granting a scholarship fund of \$250 for a Bethany Seminary student each year. This continues to the present time.

In March of 1947 it was decided to provide the support of one foreign missionary. The first recipient of this support to the amount of \$712 was Harriett Bright on the China field. At present this support is given for Betty Brooks Campbell on the India field.

The women of Southern Ohio responded promptly to the call for material aid in World War II. Supplies were provided for the civilian public service camps, and in the meeting of February 21, 1942, a special offering was taken for civilian public service and relief. An offering for Brethren Service

continues to be a part of each district women's meeting. A sample of the projects supported in the more recent years is noted in the report of 1949. They included:

National Women's Work .....	\$1,559.43
Mrs. Calvin Bright, China .....	787.00
Bethany Seminary .....	280.49
Southern Ohio missions .....	450.00
Bethany Hospital and Charity Fund .....	235.00
Bethany scholarship .....	250.00
Foreign and [home] missions .....	115.00
Leper colony, Nigeria .....	7.00
Aid fund .....	50.00
Frontier nursing in Kentucky .....	138.00
Manchester College student .....	132.00
Brethren Service .....	577.00
Camp Sugar Grove .....	250.00
American Bible Society .....	50.00

The first women's camp was held at Camp Sugar Grove in 1949. This became an annual affair and the attendance at the last camp, 1954, was one hundred seventy-two women. In addition to the camp in 1949 the cabinet planned an annual training session, or workshop, for local women's work officers. In 1954 those in attendance included two hundred thirty local church officers.

The attendance at the District Women's Work conferences taxes the capacity of the larger churches of Southern Ohio and is perhaps one of the largest in the Brotherhood. There has always been strong leadership which has been called, not from a few churches, but from a large number of the churches of the district. The cabinet is entitled to be represented at the meetings of the District Board, but the board makes no effort to supervise this phase of district activities.



## 7. MEN'S WORK

"Men's Work" means the men of local churches and/or of the district organized for Christian work in the local congregation or in and through the district.

In 1923 the men of the Middle District church organized as a "Brothers' Aid Society" with seven members. Three functions were chosen: personal evangelism, helping the poor, and enriching the spiritual life of the church. Other congregations subsequently organized men's groups.

The Annual Conference of 1926 asked districts and local congregations to organize their men. The next year, 1927, a member of the cabinet of the Brotherhood men's organization came into this district and in a meeting at the West Dayton church, in which nearly one hundred fifty laymen were present, assisted in setting up a district cabinet. It was composed of Harry McPherson, of West Dayton, president; Joe Wise, Piqua, first vice-president; Walter Campbell, West Alexandria, second vice-president; Orion Erbaugh, Trotwood, third vice-president; and Harry Royer, Bradford, secretary-treasurer. Southern Ohio was the second of the districts of the Brotherhood to organize. The first meeting was held the next month, March 13, at the Dayton Y.M.C.A.; at this meeting it was decided to ask the men of each local church of the district to organize.

It became a custom then to have a men's meeting in connection with the summer assembly. In 1930 a meeting was held at New Carlisle, with Otho Winger as speaker. A father and son meeting was held at the Salem church that same year, with R. H. Miller as speaker.

Then there is a lapse in the records until 1937. But the practice of having a special session for men at the summer assembly continued. Also sessions were held in connection with the women's meetings.

In 1937 it was decided to have the district council (cabinet)

made up of two ministers and three laymen. In this same year the plan of having each local men's group appoint a "key worker" was promoted. The district cabinet or council would work through the key worker. Following this, sectional meetings were set up to which the men from the churches included were invited. Cabinet members were assigned sections.

The first winter mass meeting was held in February 1938 at the Pittsburg church. It was a rural life study conference.

By 1939 one third of the congregations of the district had men's organizations, and thirty-four churches were contributing to the district financial budget.

The first mass meeting at Ludlow Falls, held in June of 1941, attracted over one thousand three hundred for the afternoon program and one thousand one hundred for the evening program. Since that time a mass meeting has been held here each summer, usually in August. In latter years a meeting came to be held also in the winter. In 1949 the first men's camp was held at Sugar Grove. This was over the Labor Day week end.

The activities and projects of Men's Work in the district have varied. They began with personal evangelism and in the years to follow included:

Inspiring greater lay activity in the local church.

Temperance, local option, programs, and road signs.

Sugar Grove—labor, constructing cabins, and financial aid.

Go-to-church campaigns.

Hamilton church building fund (five hundred dollars pledged in 1938).

Programs at the Brethren Home at Greenville.

Programs at Southern Ohio mission points.

Promotion of Lord's Acre projects.

Co-operation in Brethren Service program.

Co-operation in the Heifers for Relief project.

Revival meetings at Kentucky mission churches.

Dormitory fund for Manchester College.

Assistance in building a parsonage at Turkey Creek.

Support of the displaced persons program.

Promotion of the *Gospel Messenger* club program.



Help in purchasing a car for the pastor at Turkey Creek.  
Establishment of a scholarship fund of three hundred dollars for Southern Ohio ministerial students.

Promotion of use of Church of the Brethren road signs.

Furnishing volunteer labor in construction of the district parsonage.

Landscaping the district parsonage lawn.

The budget of the Men's Work Cabinet has varied from five hundred dollars at the beginning to two thousand five hundred dollars at the present time. The present officers are: Virgil Cassel, Greenville, president; Edwin Hunn, Bear Creek, vice-president; and Harvey Grisso, Springfield, secretary. The other members of the cabinet are Leland Emrick, Pleasant Hill, and Byron Miller, Painter Creek.

The District of Southern Ohio has an enviable record for the number of its men who have volunteered to serve on boats and airplanes carrying heifers, horses, goats, bees, and eggs to needy areas of the world.

Heifer Project, Inc. of New Windsor, Maryland, furnished the editor the names here recorded. They include all Church of the Brethren men and also a number who are members of other denominations. The list is complete as of January 1955.

Paul Bang, Route 2, Bradford

Richard Lee Barga, Route 1, New Madison

Earl Thomas Barnes, 1217 Oakdale Avenue, Dayton

Reynolds R. Bascom, 395 15th Avenue, Columbus

Alvin J. Beachy, Route 2, Plain City

Homer Edward Beachy, Amlin

Joseph J. Beachy, Route 2, Box 137, Plain City

Elmer G. Beason, Route 2, Morrow

Edward E. Beatty, 306 S. Washington, Greenfield

John Bendik, 36 West Lane Avenue, Columbus

Osa D. Biser, Route 1, Troy

Francis B. Bishop, Jr., 207 Crestview Road, Columbus

William Black, 1337 West 3rd Avenue, Columbus

Charles D. Blend, 37 West Como Avenue, Columbus 2

Don Bortner, Route 1, New Madison

Rutherford J. Bowman, 856 North Euclid, Dayton

Thomas F. Broadstock, Route 2, New Madison

Robert E. Brown, 116 West Church Street, Urbana  
Paul R. Brumbaugh, Route 2, Tipp City  
Ralph W. Brumbaugh, Route 2, Tipp City  
Robert Brumbaugh, 2004 Needmore, Dayton  
William H. Bruner, 426 West Main, Eaton  
Charles E. Bryant, Route 2, Bradford  
Edward D. Buettner, 1150 Harmon Avenue, Hamilton  
Rudolph Burger, 225 Victoria Drive, Dayton  
James F. Canan, 216 Hart Avenue, Greenville  
Jarrett Chavous, 191 17th Street, Columbus  
Carl Eugene Clark, 785 Hamlet Street, Columbus  
Reverend McKinley Coffman, 2400 Hill Avenue, Middletown  
Richard S. Collier, 12 University Place, Columbus  
Maynard P. Coppock, 39 Virginia Avenue, Dayton 10  
Jesse W. Combs, 719 Park Avenue, Piqua  
Willis C. Crose, New Madison  
Harold A. Delaney, 3044 Sagamon Avenue, Dayton 9  
Ralph M. Delk, Route 1, Laura  
Gale E. Denlinger, Route 10, Dayton  
Joel R. Denlinger, Route 7, Dayton  
Milford E. Denlinger, Route 10, Dayton  
Victor V. Diller, Route 1, New Carlisle,  
Robert A. Ditmer, 1105 Maple Avenue, Piqua  
Ward N. Ditmer, 1105 Maple Avenue, Piqua  
Glenn C. Dowell, Jr., 1346 Bryden Road, Columbus  
Junior K. Drew, New Madison  
Ray Dull, Route 1, Brookville  
Vernon S. Dull, Route 1, Box 240, Brookville  
Robert DuVal, 413 Harrison, Springfield  
Robert D. Edgar, 1418½ South 4th Street, Columbus  
Charles Edge, Route 1, Piqua  
Jerry T. Emrick, 2815 Genesee Avenue, Dayton  
Arthur W. Engelhard, Box 83, Bellbrook  
William C. Epstein, Jr., 120 Woodburn Avenue, Dayton  
Alonzo E. Erbaugh, Route 10, Dayton  
Herbert F. Erbaugh, Route 1, New Lebanon  
Lowell L. Erbaugh, Route 4, Dayton  
Russell Erbaugh, Route 2, New Lebanon  
Sam Erbaugh, Route 4, Dayton



Harold W. Etter, Route 2, Brookville  
Glen H. Fisher, 214 East Main Street, Trotwood  
Raymond R. Fletcher, 2051 Mayfair Road, Dayton 5  
Ericus E. Foor, 116 East 16th Avenue, Columbus  
James C. Fourman, Route 2, Arcanum  
Ralph J. Foureman, 230 Oakwood, Greenville  
Palmer M. Graver, 3125 Wold Avenue, Cincinnati  
Charles Gray, 619 Broadway, Piqua  
Harvey M. Grisso, Route 2, New Carlisle  
Reverend Harold C. Grunewald, 515 East 3rd Street, Dayton 2  
Alfred H. Guthrie, Jr., 1214 Laidlaw Avenue, Cincinnati  
Edward H. Hammon, 5117 Wilmington Avenue, Dayton  
Donald T. Harper, 2105 Sullivant Avenue, Columbus  
Elbert R. Harris, 1640 Indianola Avenue, Columbus  
Paul W. Harry, Route 2, Versailles  
Frank E. Hart, 540 Clark Street, Hamilton  
Harry L. Hart, Casstown  
Ronald Hartman, 392 Babbitt Street, Dayton 5  
R. F. Helstern, Route 1, Brookville  
R. L. Honeyman, West Milton  
Keith Hoover, Route 1, Covington  
Norman L. Isbell, 1673 Maryland Avenue, Columbus  
George Jascheck, Route 3, Greenville  
Clem H. Jones, 8464 Anthony Avenue, Cincinnati 15  
John C. Jones, Route 2, Arcanum  
John Lee Jones, 113 Rubicon Street, Dayton 9  
Abram Kaufman, Amlin  
Paul J. Kaufman, Amlin  
John E. Kauffman, Route 2, Box 149, Plain City  
Raymond R. Kauffman, Route 2, Box 149, Plain City  
Wilburn H. Kerr, Jr., 143 Cassingham Road, Columbus  
Harold J. Kiracofe, 405 Seven Mile Drive, Eaton  
Murn B. Klepinger, 21515 Smithville Road, Dayton  
Rugh Knudson Klippel, 196 Brevoort Road, Columbus  
Richard L. Lammers, St. Marys  
Donald E. LaRue, 262 Morrill Avenue, Columbus  
Charles Eugene Lenker, Route 1, Rossburg  
Joseph A. Lenker, Route 1, Rossburg  
Eugene C. Lett, 1836 Harrisburg Pike, Columbus

William S. Liggins, 60 Jefferson Avenue, Columbus  
Earl Linder, Route 1, Alliance  
Arthur Leon Livingston, Route 1, New Weston  
Robert C. Lodwick, 5163 Paddock Road, Cincinnati  
Wilbur Long, Route 1, Bradford  
Jack W. Lowel, 1108 South Ohio Avenue, Columbus  
James Q. Lutz, Box 173, Verona  
Joseph P. Mack, Route 1, Bradford  
Isidoro Martinez, 641 Rich Street, Columbus  
John Miller, Plain City  
Marvin S. Miller, Route 2, Bradford  
Norman Miller, Route 2, Bradford  
Gola Mink, Plain City  
Wendell Mink, Plain City  
George G. Moodler, 1004 Gainesborough Road, Dayton  
William Earl Neel, Route 3, Arcanum  
Reverend Ross L. Noffsinger, Route 2, Springfield  
Don Oaks, Route 1, Clayton  
Ernest L. Oaks, Route 1, Clayton  
Arthur Oda, West Milton  
Martin Oda, West Milton  
John J. Overholt, Uniontown  
Alfred L. Parletter, 3209 North Warren Avenue, Columbus  
Ivan Patterson, Route 4, Dayton  
Robert V. Patterson, 3217 West 3rd Street, Dayton  
W. V. Patterson, 3217 West 3rd Street, Dayton  
Harry Paugstat, 352 Heikes Avenue, Dayton  
Charles Lynn Peeks, 65 Sprague Street, Dayton  
Roy Peters, New Lebanon  
Andrew A. Petry, New Madison  
Carl Michael Petry, 204 Broadmoor Boulevard, Dayton  
R. Everett Petry, 611 Young Street, Piqua  
Fernando Pineda, 450 East Town Street, Columbus  
William W. Raabe, 2446 Delbert Road, Columbus  
Paul E. Reeve, 104 West Salem Street, Columbus  
William Rich, Route 2, Box 104, Piqua  
Paul W. Rodenheffer, St. Marys  
Harry Rose, 999 Hill Street, Cincinnati  
William G. Seremetis, 37 West Frambes Avenue, Columbus



Robert H. Shamansky, 525 South Drexel Avenue, Columbus  
Frederick D. Shank, Route 7, Box 187, Dayton  
Harold Shanks, Route 2, Bradford  
Thomas B. Sheridan, 2913 Ridgewood Avenue, Cincinnati  
Frank Shuler, Jr., 909 Oakwood Avenue, Columbus  
Wesley John Simon, Oberlin College, Oberlin  
Cassius M. Simmons, 328 Edgewood Avenue, Dayton 7  
Lowell E. Simmons, 328 Edgewood Avenue, Dayton 7  
Donald D. Sitler, 6849 Beechmont Avenue, Cincinnati  
Donald P. Smith, 1632 Mears Avenue, Cincinnati 30  
James Stebbins, Alpha  
Ernest Davis Steffen, Route 1, Apple Creek  
John Stevens, 334 Aberdeen, Dayton  
Henry L. Strawser, 108 East First Avenue, Plain City  
D. Emmert Studebaker, Route 1, Tipp City  
Wilbur J. Stump, New Lebanon  
George L. Stutsman, Route 2, Box 38, Piqua  
Fred W. Teach, Route 3, New Carlisle  
Wilbur F. Teach, Route 2, Springfield  
Stephen W. Thompson, 141 Victor Avenue, Dayton  
Hilliard W. Thorpe, 2615 Oakmont Avenue, Dayton  
Fletcher Twitty, 1336 Kent Street, Columbus  
Jorge Maurique Valldejubi, 1640 Indianola Avenue, Columbus  
Robert Walcutt, 1216 Everett Drive, Dayton  
Ralph B. Walker, 229 West 11th Avenue, Columbus  
Richard L. Walker, Danville  
Phillip B. Wallick, 322 Wonderly Avenue, Dayton  
Robert F. Warman, 377 West 9th Avenue, Columbus  
Marlin E. Weaver, 308 Liberty Street, Bradford  
Paul Weaver, Route 5, Salem  
William Welde, 3106 Sagamon Avenue, Dayton 9  
Ralph E. Wilkens, 5230 Wilmington Road, Dayton  
Robin S. Wilson, 252 Brevoort Road, Columbus  
Howard O. Wiser, Route 4, Dayton  
Henry A. Yoder, Route 2, Box 146, Plain City  
Jonas J. Yutzy, Route 1, Box 79, Plain City  
Erwin R. Zeller, 140 South Cassingham Road, Columbus  
Frederick A. Zimmer, Jr., 3474 High Street, Columbus  
Clifford E. Zimmerman, Route 1, New Carlisle

## 8. THE BRETHREN HOME

The Brethren Home at Greenville was authorized by a special district meeting held at Fort McKinley in February of 1902.

At a meeting held at Donnels Creek in 1896 a committee had reported on solicitation, previously authorized:

Money subscribed .....	\$7,716.75
Endowments .....	1,660.00
Total .....	<u>\$9,376.75</u>
Committee expenses .....	\$ 27.70

A collection, at the district meeting, to defray these expenses amounted to \$27.91.

It was decided to continue the committee, urging an immediate canvass "in the several churches, and if the required amount, \$20,000.00, be subscribed by August 1st, they, with the officers of this meeting, call a Special District Meeting, for the purpose of presenting plans and specifications for the buildings, to adopt constitution and by-laws, also to appoint a Board of Directors to control said Home."

At the next district meeting, in May 1897, the Committee on Old Folks' Home asked that they be relieved, that all previous subscriptions be laid aside and new ones be taken, that work be begun anew, and that a new committee of five who were in full sympathy with the work be appointed. It also recommended that an orphans' home "be taken in connection with the Old Folks' Home."

This report was accepted, a committee of five was appointed, a collection was taken for the expenses of the relieved committee, and it was decided to raise funds as follows:

"O. F. and O. Home in cash .....	\$10,000.00
Endowments .....	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
Total .....	\$20,000.00"



The new committee reported in 1898 that "after canvassing about half the territory we found we had about \$7,000.00. Taking that and the former canvass as a basis, we estimated an entire canvass would give us about \$12,000.00. Hence we decided to stop canvassing—because, in our judgment, it would be impossible to raise the amount."

The report was accepted and it was decided to "drop the subject of Old Folks' and Orphans' Home."

The next year the district turned down a request from Southern Indiana to unite in promoting an old folks and orphans' home.

By the persistence of the membership a query came the next year, 1900, asking district meeting "to favor the establishment of an old folks' home for the aged and infirm poor members that are or may become as such on the charities of the several churches of Southern Ohio." Ten thousand dollars in cash and endowment was recommended. The paper was lost, but another query, worded differently, was deferred for one year, and it was decided to send a committee to the Annual Meeting to meet with the "'Association of Old Folks' and Orphans' Homes,' glean all useful information possible referring to such work, and impart said information to the churches of Southern Ohio." Thus the movement was kept alive.

This investigation was reported the next year. The following is of record, in the minutes of district meeting of 1901:

1. After considerable investigation the meeting decided in favor of establishing an Old Folks' and Orphans' Home.

The following recommendation was then considered and passed: We recommend:

1. That a cash fund of \$10,000 be raised to meet expenses of rearing said home.

2. That a committee of five be appointed to make the apportionment to the churches.

3. That this meeting appoint a solicitor to canvass or cause to be canvassed the churches, said solicitor to have the power to call public meetings in each congregation and talk up the interest of said work before soliciting—the elders at his request to call meetings; or at their regular meetings to encourage and receive endowment funds for the perpetuation of such home if erected.

4. That we allow said solicitor \$1.50 per day, and that each local church furnish a brother to accompany said solicitor.

5. That the subscription papers to raise said funds become due as follows: One-half on or before May 1, 1902; the balance on or before October 1, 1902.

6. That each church appoint a receiver to receive said money and forward the same to the one hereafter authorized to receive said funds.

7. That a committee of three be continued to look after its interest, and in event the means are raised in time to have a special district meeting called for preparatory steps.

J. H. Brumbaugh,  
J. Longanecker,  
J. Eby,  
Committee

Solicitor—Joseph Longanecker.

Committee on Apportionment—D. D. Wine, Jacob Coppock, J. W. Beeghley, Henry Baker, John H. Rhineheart.

Committee in Charge—William K. Simmons, Jesse Stutsman, Jonas Horning.

In 1902 at a special district meeting in February, at Fort McKinley, the soliciting of thirty-two churches was reported, with four thousand two hundred sixty-five members contacted, besides children, and a total of \$16,622.69 subscribed, and a soliciting expense of \$291.77. The report was accepted. At this same meeting came a request from the Northeastern District of Ohio to unite in building a home. This was turned down. Five trustees were named and a locating committee was chosen with instructions to report a constitution and by-laws for the government of the institution.

Then, at the regular district meeting following in April, rules and regulations were adopted and the location at Greenville was approved. The trustees elected were “authorized to forward the work.”

In 1903 the trustees reported cash receipts of \$18,223.71, the purchase of real estate, contracts for construction let, and estimates of work not contracted. These latter totaled \$21,864.54, “leaving the Home in debt \$3,640.83.” It reported \$2,083.26 in unpaid pledges, which, if paid, would leave an indebtedness of \$1,557.57. In an unusual procedure, cash and pledges taken at this district meeting totaled \$2,147.97, more than covering the deficit. The time must have been ripe at last for this gesture of Christian charity.

At the district meeting of 1904, the deficit from unpaid pledges was \$462.53, and \$3,000.00 was appropriated “among



the several churches for the support of the Home for one year."

Now the Brethren Home for old folks and children was underway and each year the district appropriated money for its maintenance. In 1905 it was \$3,500. The next year it was \$4,000, the Sunday schools being asked for an offering each quarter. It was back to \$3,000 in 1913. The amount varied some from year to year. In 1920 it was \$4,500; in 1925, \$5,500; the same in 1930; \$4,500 in 1935; \$3,000 in 1940; \$1,500 in 1945; and \$2,500 in 1950. This gives a fair picture of the cost to the district of maintaining the Home.

It will be noted that the Home was established for old folks and orphans. State laws required the separation of these two departments. Its use for the older people seemed to increase in need and its use for orphans to decrease, until in 1937 the trustees requested permission to convert the children's quarters into quarters for adults. There was only one child in the Home at that time. The change was authorized. This removed a rather dramatic scene from district meetings at which the children from the Home had been presented on the platform, often singing or giving declamations. The next year, 1938, the trustees reported no children there. From here on the Home received only adults.

In 1938 the trustees asked that a study be made of the advisability of adding hospital care and facilities as pressure was coming for the care of sick and invalid members. A committee was appointed to study the matter. By the time the committee reported in 1940 the Old Age Pension plan had become operative, relieving churches of the responsibility of caring for many of the old people, and demands for admission had decreased. The committee reported: "At the present time the number of inmates can be adjusted to the capacity of the Home." The move for a hospital was dropped here. The committee noted the tendency for the Home to become "a retirement home for some who are paying their own way."

In 1949 the trustees asked the district conference to "encourage the trustees of the Brethren's Home to solicit funds needed for the improvement of the building and the installation of an elevator." It was done. Progress was reported in 1950.

Tentative plans for constructing additional rooms were presented and approved in 1951. In November 1952 a report of work begun and more funds needed was accepted. In 1953 the cost of the improvements to date was reported at \$80,198.76. Of this, \$33,159.02 was from churches; \$16,018.44 from individuals; interest on building funds, \$194.39. Reserves in hand of \$25,820.67 were used to complete the needed funds. A photo of the remodeled home is shown. Brother Phares Fourman, for many years the superintendent of the Home, supervised the building construction.



**The Brethren Home at Greenville**  
Showing the recent structure which joins  
the two former buildings into one unit

By comparing this photo with that on page 296 of the 1920 Southern Ohio history the reader can readily see that the two main buildings of the Home were connected in the recent remodeling.

The trustees feature an Annual Home Day in August, which proves a great source of blessing to the residents there. Old friends from their home churches and relatives from throughout the district come in. A program of talks and singing is featured. A basket dinner for residents and visitors highlights the day.



The Home is now nearly filled to capacity by aged persons enjoying the comforts and facilities there.

Following are the names and terms of the superintendents and matrons to date: Elmer Petry and wife, two and one-half years; Samuel Tippy and wife, one and one-half year; Willis Kreider and wife, nine years; Carl McGowan and wife, four and one-half years; Phares D. Fourman and wife, nine years; Harry Hart and wife, three years; Phares D. Fourman and wife, second term, four years and three months; and Ira Mikesell and wife, since September 1, 1953.

The present trustees of the Home are: Ira Oren (president), Virgil Cassel (secretary-treasurer), Robert Honeyman, Virgil Royer, and Emmert Studebaker.

## 9. YOUTH ACTIVITIES

During the early 1920's a growing consciousness was developing among the youth of the Southern Ohio churches of the need to organize for more effectiveness in their Christian witness and service. Many of the youth met at the annual midsummer assembly. Some of them felt that the interests of youth in the service of the church would be improved if some kind of a district youth organization were formed. There were youth organizations in some of the local churches.

At the district meeting of 1924 the director of religious education, John A. Robinson, called attention to the increased activity in the young people's departments of the churches, reporting a total of one thousand five hundred sixty-one young people between the ages of twelve and twenty-four in the Sunday schools, and that on February 17 of the year previous, 1923, at the first young people's conference held in Southern Ohio, these young people were organized. An outing was held on July 4 of that year, and on December 28-30 the second young people's conference was held at West Milton. The first conference was perhaps held at the Fort McKinley church.

In 1925 the director reported that there were one thousand seven hundred young people, of the same ages, in the Sunday schools, and that a district organization had been effected representing thirty-seven organizations in local churches. The winter youth conference had been held at New Carlisle. Plans were underway for a young people's conference immediately following the summer assembly at Ludlow Falls, at which the enrollment was one hundred thirty-five. A Fourth of July meeting was reported with an enrollment of two hundred, with another scheduled for July 1925.

By 1926 the district young people were organized with a cabinet of eight members and an adult adviser, John A. Robinson. That year a young people's chorus, organized by Dan



West, cabinet chairman, toured many of the churches of the district. This was repeated the two following years, then was dropped, and was taken up again just ten years later.

So with this development of organization and activities the youth work of Southern Ohio was well underway.

In 1935 the Board of Religious Education had one of its members, Pat Stoner, designated as young people's representative and appointed the adult adviser, Mark Shellhaas. Brother Shellhaas served in this capacity or as a member of the cabinet for nearly twenty years.

Of course during all this time there was an equal development of young people's work, with B.Y.P.D.'s in nearly all of the local churches. The youth were no longer merely *observing* their elders in church activities; they were *joining hands* with them, no longer on the sidelines but in the working force.

A significant service attempted by the young people had its initiation at the midwinter conference at Salem in 1935, when they decided to support the Brotherhood program of the Church of the Brethren for a full twenty-four hour period at a cost of \$720. Thus was born the Youth Serves project of the district. In December 1936, at the midwinter conference, when the totals were all in it was found that the young people had actually raised \$1,030.13. Such response caused them to set the next goal at thirty hours, or \$900. This was slightly less than the Mission Board received from all the churches in 1903. A part of the report of the B.Y.P.D. to the district conference of 1938 will indicate the spirit of those days:

Southern Ohio is rapidly gaining the brotherhood-wide reputation of possessing the most active young people's organization in our church. Truly our young people's program is one with which all Southern Ohio may justly be well pleased.

Probably the crowning achievement of the past year's work was the amazingly successful Youth Serves Project. At the Eaton conference more than a year ago the "Thirty Hours Project" was undertaken. This meant that the young people of the district would be responsible for raising enough money to support the entire national and international work of the church for a period of thirty hours. The report made on January 1 at the Greenville conference well illustrates what our Southern Ohio youth can do when they become interested.

The large audience sat spellbound as the contributions from the various churches were read. The goal of thirty hours was reached and still the reader continued. The hours kept mounting and mounting: 30, 40, 50, 60, on to the grand total of 69 hours, 1 minute and 33 seconds. Instead of raising the \$900.00 set as the goal the young people of the district had contributed \$2,070.78 to the general conference budget. A project of seventy-two hours—three full days—\$2,160, has been undertaken for 1938 and it is now well on its way to being more than reached.

To dramatize this project, candles were lighted and allowed to burn the whole seventy-two hours while the conference was in session.

And so goals for Youth Serves were set and exceeded year after year. The only exception was 1947, when the sum of \$6,017.31 was raised on a goal of \$6,500.00. The goal was one hundred hours in 1939. The amounts contributed in years to follow are impressive:

1941 .....	\$5,130.75	1949 .....	7,279.00
1942 .....	6,180.00	1950 .....	7,400.00
1943 .....	6,984.64	1951 ..	5,100.00, plus a goal of
1944 .....	7,027.82		twenty heifers for relief
1945 .....	6,500.00	1952 ..	7,500, plus \$1,000.00
1946 .....	6,500.00		for a car for Don Snider,
1947 .....	6,017.31		at Kassel, Germany
1948 .....	7,143.86		

The Youth Serves project is worthy of this space because it is unique in youth work, not only in the Church of the Brethren but in Christendom.

In addition to all this the youth built the stone cabin at Camp Sugar Grove and also contributed most of the money for the construction of the swimming pool there.

As a result of this adventurous spirit and these activities many young people of the district were influenced to become missionaries and enlist in Brethren Volunteer Service. They have been represented in Africa, Europe, and Asia. The names of those who have served in Brethren Volunteer Service from this district follow this chapter.

Besides the local church organizations the young people have organized as counties, having officers and regular meetings, those of Darke, Miami, and Montgomery being par-



ticularly active. As a means of reaching local groups more effectively, there were begun in 1947 youth rallies, held in convenient parts of the district, four being conducted that year. Even with dividing the territory in this way the average attendance at the rallies the next year was about two hundred.

Over two hundred fifty young people of the district were in attendance at the National Youth Conference of the Church of the Brethren at Anderson, Indiana, in August 1954.

The midwinter conference held each year brings together so many young people that there is difficulty finding a meeting place with adequate facilities to accommodate the crowds.

While the Brethren Young People's Department is now named the Church of the Brethren Youth Fellowship (CBYF), the same enthusiasm for Christian service and the same vision of greater tasks to do continue to motivate and inspire the young people of Southern Ohio.

The conclusion of the report of the B.Y.P.D. Cabinet to the district conference of 1938 is appropriate for closing this record of youth: "On the feet of today's young people's program marches forward the Church of the Brethren of tomorrow."

### *Brethren Volunteer Service*

The General Brotherhood Board of the Church of the Brethren set up plans a few years ago for the enlisting of interested and qualified youth of the church in a period of volunteer service under the direction of the board. Southern Ohio youth have responded to this challenge in a notable way. This history would not be complete without at least a brief record of the work of these young people. Following is the list of those who have volunteered, including the home address, the home congregation, and the field and period of each one's service. Many of these youth have already become leaders in the local churches and some in the district.

1. Dolores Petry, Route 2, New Paris. Prices Creek. Florida migrant camp, 12-48 to 12-49.
2. Shirley Ann Coppock, Route 2, Waynesville. East Dayton. Peace caravaner, 6-49 to 9-49; New Windsor, Maryland, 8-50 to 6-51.

3. Ralph Dull, Route 1, Brookville. Brookville. Peace caravaner, 6-49 to 6-50.
4. Vera Lee (now Mrs. Roy McRoberts), Route 2, Eaton. Prices Creek. Falfurrias, Texas, 6-49 to 3-50.
5. Robert Mikesell, Route 5, Union City, Indiana. Union City. New Windsor, Maryland, 6-49 to 6-50.
6. Betty Sotzing, 415 South Miami Street, West Milton. West Milton. Europe, 12-49 to 8-51.
7. Shirley Ferguson, Route 2, Xenia. Beaver Creek. Taylors Valley, Virginia, 3-50 to 3-51.
8. Barbara Jean Mote, Route 1, Covington. Pleasant Hill. New Windsor, Maryland, and Falfurrias, Texas, 3-50 to 8-50.
9. Don Kinsel, 43 Western Avenue, Brookville. Brookville. Chicago, Illinois, recreation project, 3-50 to 3-51.
10. Dorothy Teach (now Mrs. Gerald Snyder), Route 3, New Carlisle. Donnels Creek. Fresno, California, and New Windsor, Maryland, 6-50 to 6-51.
11. Betty June Young (now Mrs. Dean Neher), Route 2, New Carlisle. Donnels Creek. Europe, 6-50 to 4-52.
12. Don Richards, Route 4, Box 407, Dayton 9. Bear Creek. Youth stimulator, 9-50 to 9-51.
13. Donald E. Barnes, Route 1, Union. Salem. New Windsor, Maryland, 12-50 to 12-51.
14. Donald Eugene Brumbaugh, Route 3, Box 78, Brookville. Salem. Hastings State Hospital, Minnesota, 12-50 to 12-51.
15. Donald Gibbel, 653 Harrison Avenue, Greenville. Greenville. New Windsor, Maryland, 12-50 to 5-51.
16. John Lowell Hutcheson, Route 1, Laura. Potsdam. Hastings State Hospital, Minnesota, 12-50 to 12-51.
17. Joan Lee Macy, Route 1, Box 244, Vandalia. Middle District. Denver, Colorado, 12-50 to 9-51.
18. Wilma Studebaker (now Mrs. George Kreps), Route 2, Springfield. Donnels Creek. San Francisco, California, 12-50 to 11-51.
19. Anna Mae Brumbaugh, Route 3, Brookville. Brookville. Chicago, Illinois, 3-51 to 3-52.



20. Laura Belle Littler, 132 South Montgomery Street, Dayton 2. East Dayton. New Windsor, Maryland, 3-51 to 3-52.
21. Lyle Lambert, Route 1, Box 228, Dayton 5. Happy Corner. Falfurrias, Texas, 6-51 to 6-52.
22. Emily Jean Metzger (now Mrs. Luke Mumma), Route 2, Springfield. Donnels Creek. Chinese project, Chicago, Illinois, 6-51 to 6-52.
23. Donald R. Bowman, 144 West Norwich Avenue, Columbus 1. Fort McKinley. United Christian Youth Movement and Central Region, 9-51 to 3-52; New Windsor, Maryland, and Central Region, 3-52 to 9-52; traveling on peace tour, 9-52 to 5-53.
24. Ray Dull, Route 1, Brookville. Brookville. Europe, 9-51 to 6-53.
25. Leon Renner, Ludlow Falls. Pleasant Hill. Elgin, Illinois, New Windsor, Maryland, and Falfurrias, Texas, 9-51 to 7-52.
26. Virginia Royer, Arcanum. Painter Creek. Western Regional office, McPherson, Kansas, 9-51 to 9-52.
27. Patricia Ann Butterbaugh, Route 1, Vandalia. Mack Memorial. Florida, 12-51 to 12-52.
28. Emerson L. Davidson, Route 2, Tipp City. Middle District. Fremont Center project, Elgin, Illinois, and Pahokee, Florida, 3-52 to 3-53.
29. Nola V. Delk, Route 1, Brookville. Brookville. Baltimore, Maryland, 6-52 to 9-52.
30. Dale Aukerman, Route 2, West Alexandria. Eaton. New Windsor, Maryland, 9-52 to 9-53; now in Europe in 1-W service.
31. June Esther Brumbaugh, Route 3, Brookville. Brookville. Fresno, California, 9-52 to 5-53.
32. Shirley Ford, 297 Linden Avenue, Piqua. Piqua. Florida, 9-52 to 9-53.
33. Richard Dean Foust, Route 6, Box 227, Dayton 7. Lower Miami. Europe, 12-52 to 12-54.
34. Donald E. Miller, Route 4, Box 367, Dayton 7. Bear Creek. Europe, 12-52 to 12-54.

35. Ralph H. Shroyer, Route 3, Box 75, Brookville. Salem. New Windsor, Maryland, and Nappanee, Indiana, 3-53 to 3-54.
36. Rosalind Buck, 4604 Eichelberger Avenue, Dayton 6. Fort McKinley. Europe, 6-53 to 6-54.
37. Byron C. Priser, Route 1, New Lebanon. Gratis. Falfurrias, Texas, and Ann Arbor, Michigan, 6-53 to 6-54; now in 1-W service at Wesley Memorial Hospital, Chicago, Illinois.
38. Helen Elaine Loser, East St. Claire Street, Eaton. Eaton. Florida, 9-53 to 9-54.
39. Janet Lucille Miller, 396 Maple Street, Brookville. Brookville. Puerto Rico, 9-53 to 11-54.
40. Joseph B. Noffsinger, 474 Edward, Akron 12. Springfield. New Windsor, Maryland, and Hastings State Hospital, Minnesota, 9-53 to 9-54; now in 1-W service.
41. Robert D. Puterbaugh, 36 Walnut Street, Phillipsburg. Salem. Falfurrias, Texas, 9-53 to 9-54; now in 1-W service.
42. Max Snider, Route 2, Bradford. Red River. Europe, 9-53—.
43. Harold L. Alley, Route 4, Greenville. Poplar Grove. Florida, 12-53 to 12-54.
44. Marilyn June Alley (Mrs. Harold), Route 4, Greenville. Cedar Grove. Florida, 12-53 to 12-54.
45. Doris Jean Eikenberry, Route 2, West Alexandria. Eaton. San Francisco, California, and Chicago, Illinois, 3-54—.
46. Raymond E. Bailey, Route 3, Troy. Pleasant Hill. Ann Arbor, Michigan, 6-54—.
47. Harold C. Gross, Mounted Route 10, Road 70, Springfield. Donnels Creek. Europe, 6-54—.
48. James A. Shafer, 1204 North Barron Street, Eaton. Eaton. NSBRO office, Washington, D. C., 6-54—.
49. Harold C. Mack, Route 2, Bradford. Red River. Nigeria, 6-54—.
50. Patricia Jane Brate, 615 Crawford, Middletown. Middletown. Falfurrias, Texas, 9-54—.
51. Ned Honeyman, Route 1, West Milton. Potsdam. Falfurrias, Texas, 9-54—.



52. Ruth Anna Snider, Route 2, Bradford. Red River. Europe, 9-54—.
53. Robert Emerson Baker, 101 Grand Avenue, Trotwood. Trotwood. New Windsor, Maryland, 12-54—.
54. Robert Duane Harter, Route 1, Hollansburg. Beech Grove. New Windsor, Maryland, 12-54—.
55. Robert Dwaine Mendenhall, 126 South Harrison Street, Covington. Covington. New Windsor, Maryland, 12-54—.
56. Carl Deo Seibel, Route 1, Union. Salem. New Windsor, Maryland, 12-54—.
57. Rollin Jan Thompson, Box 106, Ludlow Falls. West Milton. New Windsor, Maryland, 12-54—.

## 10. CAMP SUGAR GROVE

In the early 1920's, perhaps mostly under the leadership of Dan West, the idea of a camp in the district began to take root. In the summer of 1925 forty-one Southern Ohio youth attended Camp Mack, recently opened. The year before, a camp had been held at Ludlow Falls, according to Brother West. But in 1925 a young people's summer conference was held at Ludlow Falls with one hundred thirty-five attending. It was here that the movement to have a camp in the district got underway and a committee was appointed to investigate. At the midwinter youth conference the following December a motion was made and carried unanimously to co-operate with the district in the purchase of a camp and summer assembly grounds. A young people's chorus toured several of the churches during 1925-26 and contributed the offerings toward the purchase of a camp.

Someone had suggested that the old church and grounds at Sugar Grove, the property of the Covington and Pleasant Hill churches and long since abandoned as a place of worship, would make a good place for a camp. Dan West, then president of the Youth Cabinet of the district, thought it was an excellent idea. It had been the place of worship for his parents. When the suggestion was carried to the Youth Cabinet they concurred. It seemed that Sugar Grove was the best site available. The youth soon raised five hundred dollars to make the purchase. There were complications, but they were met.

At the district meeting of 1926 the Trotwood congregation brought a query as follows: "Will District Meeting approve the establishment of a Camp and Assembly Grounds, at Sugar Grove as proposed and passed by the Young People's Conference and endorsed by the joint committee selected by the Young People's Conference and the Summer Assembly Committee?"

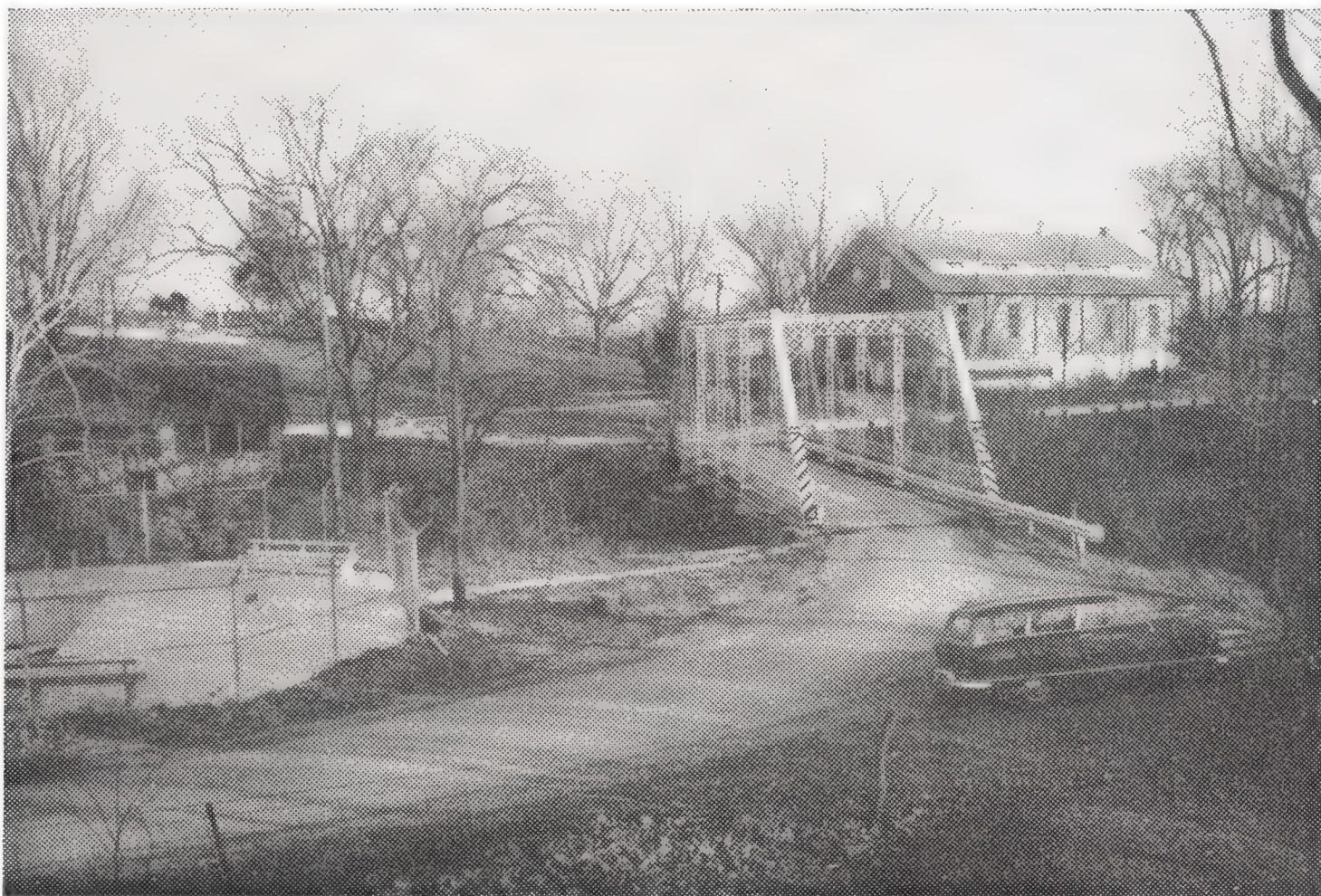


The District Meeting decided to empower the Midsummer Assembly Committee and the Young People's Cabinet to establish a camp and assembly at Sugar Grove.



**Camp Sugar Grove**

Showing the swimming pool and the cabins nestled against the hillside



**Camp Sugar Grove**

Showing the main building (formerly the Sugar Grove church) and the stone cabin



Then came the task of reconditioning the church building and providing necessary facilities. Youth joined hands to work and purses were opened. We quote Dan West: "Days of labor, nights of planning, and much of praying by green but determined youth, and some older folks. In spite of the rain, an unfinished plant, and some other hitches, we had a good camp anyhow."

The camp he refers to was the one held during the summer of 1927. It was a camp for boys 12 to 15 years of age. Camps for both boys and girls were held the next year. So a Southern Ohio camp was a reality.

In the district meeting minutes of 1929, the director of religious education, J. A. Robinson, included the following in his report:

After a few years of summer camps held within the district, it was thought possible to join with Camp Mack in a regional effort and organization. This plan proved impractical, since at our best we could reach only a small number of our young people for a regional conference, while in the district we were able to enroll a larger number in camp than the whole of the six remaining districts of the region. This led to a serious consideration of a district camp for the future, and after due consideration Sugar Grove Camp was the result. This has been purchased, improved and operated by free will offerings and pledges without any assessment on the district and is already practically free of debt.

In his report, reference is made to camps held for boys, for girls, and for young people.

In that same year the district Sunday-school treasurer reported receipts of \$738.90 for "Camp Sugar Grove Assembly," and expenses of \$684.44, which included \$200.00 on a note (purchase price). The balance due on the purchase price was indicated as "\$125.00 with interest on same from October 8, 1928."

The Board of Religious Education reported in 1934, as follows:

The year 1933 was one of the most successful years in the history of Sugar Grove Camp. There was a greater amount of enthusiasm and interest shown by the campers. More spiritual insight and inspiration, and a higher type of leadership. The attendance for the past two years is submitted:



	1932	1933
Intermediate girls .....	44	44
Intermediate boys .....	37	67
Young people .....	57	64

There were twenty-seven churches represented in the intermediate boys' camp; twenty-three in the intermediate girls' camp and twenty-four in the young people's camp. The dates for Sugar Grove activities have already been set, and much of the actual program building has been done. Complete schedule will be ready for distribution by June 1, 1934.

The board in cooperation with the Young People feel that the time is here for some definite improvements to be made at the camp next year. Already a cabin has been authorized by the District Young People. Steps are under way to provide an outside fire-escape for the present Camp Building that the safety of our boys and girls might be secured.



Breakfast Being Prepared Outdoors, Camp Sugar Grove

This same year a minute was passed "that the present Trustees of Sugar Grove Camp be dismissed and their work and responsibilities be invested in the Board of Christian Education." Incorporation of the trustees was authorized in 1940 for the purpose of "holding in trust for the District of



Southern Ohio, the grounds and properties of Camp Sugar Grove . . . and of directing and controlling the management of the camp."

When the District Board of Southern Ohio was set up it was charged with the duty of appointing "a Board of five Directors of Camp Sugar Grove," and the Commission on Christian Education was responsible to "administer the educational program of the District Camp."



A Nature Study Hike, Camp Sugar Grove

Returning to the activities and development of the camp, it will be noted that in the report of 1942 it was indicated that a total of four hundred eleven had attended the camp the summer previous, with forty-four churches sending children, youth, or leaders. The whole district was now vitally interested in the camp. There was a report also of the erection of a dormitory cabin, making a total of three cabins built in the last two years. A stone cabin had been built and a porch was in the process of building at this time.

By the mid-1940's the adequacy of Sugar Grove as a camp



began to be discussed in the district. In the minutes of 1948 is the following action:

Report of Camp Sugar Grove was accepted and a thorough discussion of a possible new camping site or the improvement of the present camp at Sugar Grove followed. In respect to this matter the following proposal was offered:

Since the Board of Christian Education is not wholly agreed, either on the adequacy of Sugar Grove for future years or on any other site visited by the whole board, and, since we believe it unwise to invest now in permanent improvements at Sugar Grove while its future is uncertain, we propose:

1. That needed temporary improvements begin at once for Camp Sugar Grove to make it more adequate for the next year or two.

2. That the problem of a permanent camp site be recommitted to the Trustees of Camp Sugar Grove (BCE) for another year, with authority to call in laymen for counsel regarding property values and investments, and with the authority to purchase for the district any site which seems to meet the need for the best camp site for our district.

3. That we begin at once to raise, by solicitation from the churches, a fund sufficient to meet the present needed improvements at Sugar Grove and to meet the cost of either purchase or improvement of such camp site as shall eventually be chosen.

These proposals were accepted and the board authorized to act accordingly.

Then the next year this report came:

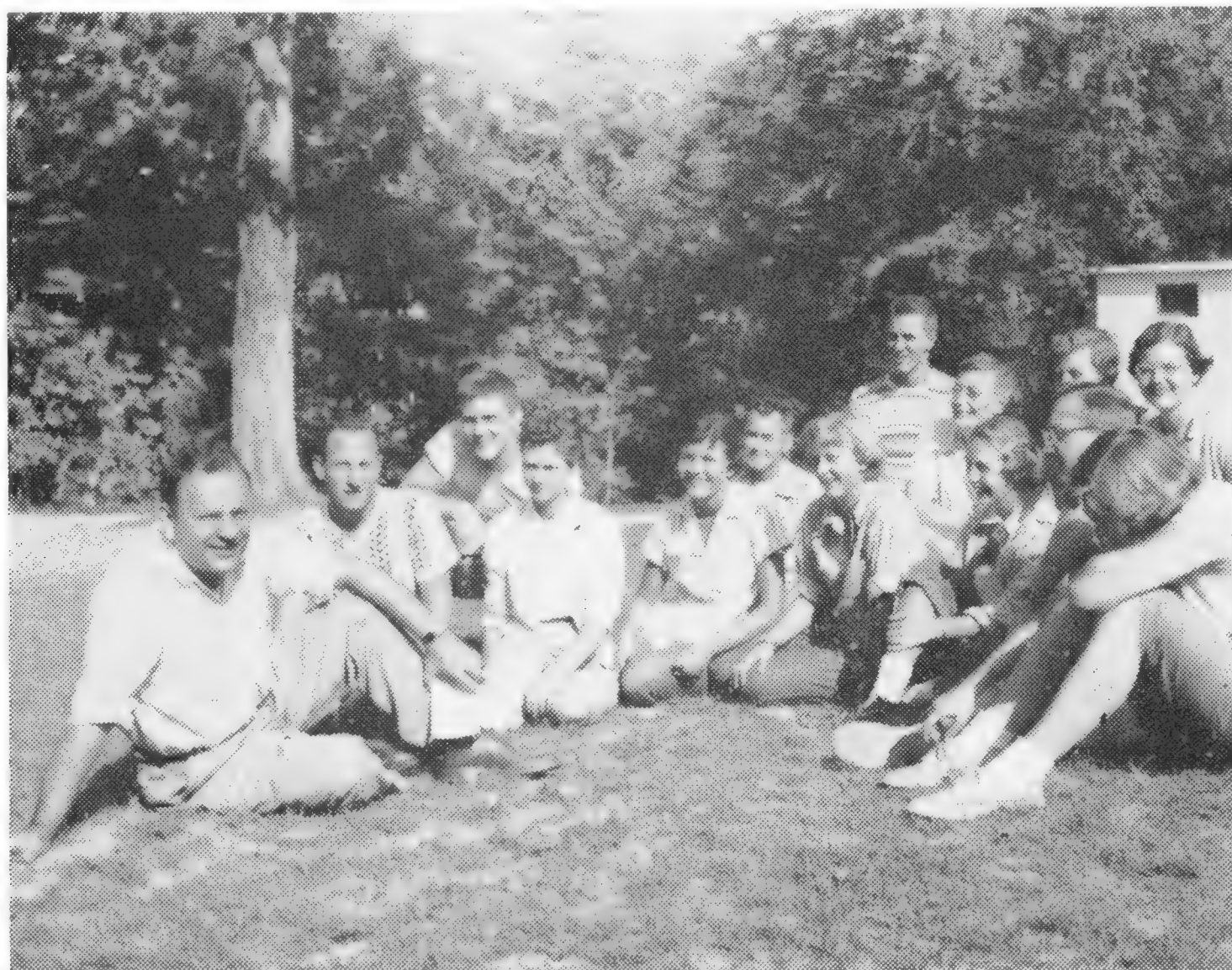
Soon after last year's conference a group of representative people from over the district were called together to give their views of a camp site. A full evening was spent hearing these opinions. Taking all these and many other factors into account, the Board at a later meeting decided to remain at Sugar Grove and enter into an extensive improvement program there.

Plans were made to raise \$15,000 for improvements at the camp which would include modern toilet facilities and a swimming pool. This was in 1949.

The next year the completion of these improvements, the repairing of the basement of the Stone Cottage, and the digging of a well were reported, and it was proposed to build a cabin for the camp manager.

Other improvements were reported the next year as well as the purchase of a twenty-seven-foot trailer home for the camp manager, instead of constructing the cabin, and provisions for keeping the manager on the grounds the year

around. Expenditures that year reached \$4,557.18. It is noted that in this year Women's Work furnished \$1,411.03 for camp improvement and provisions.



**A Camp Leaders' Conference, Camp Sugar Grove**

In the years that have passed since the early beginning, Camp Sugar Grove has steadily improved its facilities and expanded its program to serve the District of Southern Ohio more effectively. Instead of one week of camp each summer the program has been expanded to include ten full weeks of camp. It is in use also over week ends and for short-term camps from May until October.

Following is a schedule of the camp program for 1954:  
April 17, 18, camp leaders' training  
May 8, 9, camp leaders' training  
May 30, youth retreat and work day  
June 28—July 1, junior camp (nine-year-olds)  
July 1-4, junior camp (nine-year-olds)  
July 4, 5, family camp  
July 6-11, intermediate camp (twelve- to thirteen-year-olds)  
July 13-18, intermediate camp (twelve- to thirteen-year-olds)  
July 20-25, intermediate camp (fourteen- to fifteen-year-olds)



July 27—August 1, junior camp (ten- to eleven-year-olds)  
August 3-8, intermediate camp (fourteen- to fifteen-year-olds)  
August 10-15, junior camp (ten- to eleven-year-olds)  
August 17-22, junior camp (ten- to eleven-year-olds)  
August 23-29, young people's camp  
August 31—September 1, ministers' retreat  
September 2, 3, women's camp  
September 5, 6, men's camp  
September 11, 12, camp leaders' retreat

Attendance for the summer of 1954 was as follows:

Eight-year-olds .....	18	Twelve-year-olds .....	114
Nine-year-olds .....	91	Thirteen-year-olds .....	79
Ten-year-olds .....	124	Fourteen-year-olds .....	48
Eleven-year-olds .....	118	Fifteen-year-olds .....	25
	—	Sixteen-year-olds .....	1
Total juniors .....	351		—
		Total junior highs .....	267

Sixty-six campers were from other denominations. Forty-seven churches sent campers. Twenty-eight churches sent both campers and leaders. Eighteen churches sent campers, but no leaders. One church sent a leader, but no campers. Eighty-seven people served as leaders. Of these twenty-one were adult men and twenty-six were adult women.

The children's camps gave a total of \$366.72 for various projects: \$68.66 for the Brotherhood Fund; \$69.02 for India missions; \$179.04 for general overseas relief—mostly surplus food; \$50.00 for the purchase of a heifer and its feed.

Attendance at other camps this summer was as follows: men's camp, fifty-three; women's camp, one hundred seventy-two; youth week-end camp, seventy; family camp, two hundred ten; week-end camps, two thousand two hundred.

One of the features of the youth camp each year is a love feast and communion. Many youth have testified that in this love feast of youth alone the spiritual uplift exceeds that of any other camp experience.

During its twenty-seven years the camp has influenced thousands of youth; many of them to become leaders in the local church, some for the ministry, and many to give years of volunteer service in needy places throughout the world.





## PART TWO

### Congregations





# 1. FUNCTIONING CHURCHES

## BEAR CREEK

The Bear Creek church territory was originally a part of the Lower Miami congregation. It was one of our churches carved out of this earliest Southern Ohio Brethren settlement. Thus its origin dates back to 1811, when a committee of four elders from Virginia, invited by the Lower Miami members, divided its territory into four divisions: Lower Miami, Lower Stillwater, Wolf Creek, and Bear Creek. In this division Bear Creek inherited two ministers, Elder David Bowman, who was to have charge of the church, and Henry Metzger, who was to assist in the ministry; and four deacons, namely: Leonard Wolf, Joseph Cripe, John Metzger, and Phillip Shank. Elder Bowman presided for forty-nine years, till his death in 1860. His son, David, Jr., presided from 1860 to 1879—almost seventy years for father and son.

There was no house of worship until 1838, when the first structure was erected. In 1859 this was replaced by a new building, with a basement, which was quite an innovation. Then in 1910 the present beautiful house of worship was dedicated. Some remodeling has been done to this building since then, including a balcony and improvements in the basement. More land was later acquired, giving the church property greater depth; then the lot was landscaped and a drive put in. A beautiful new parsonage was erected in 1950 on the west end of the property. Anniversaries were observed in 1936 and 1946.

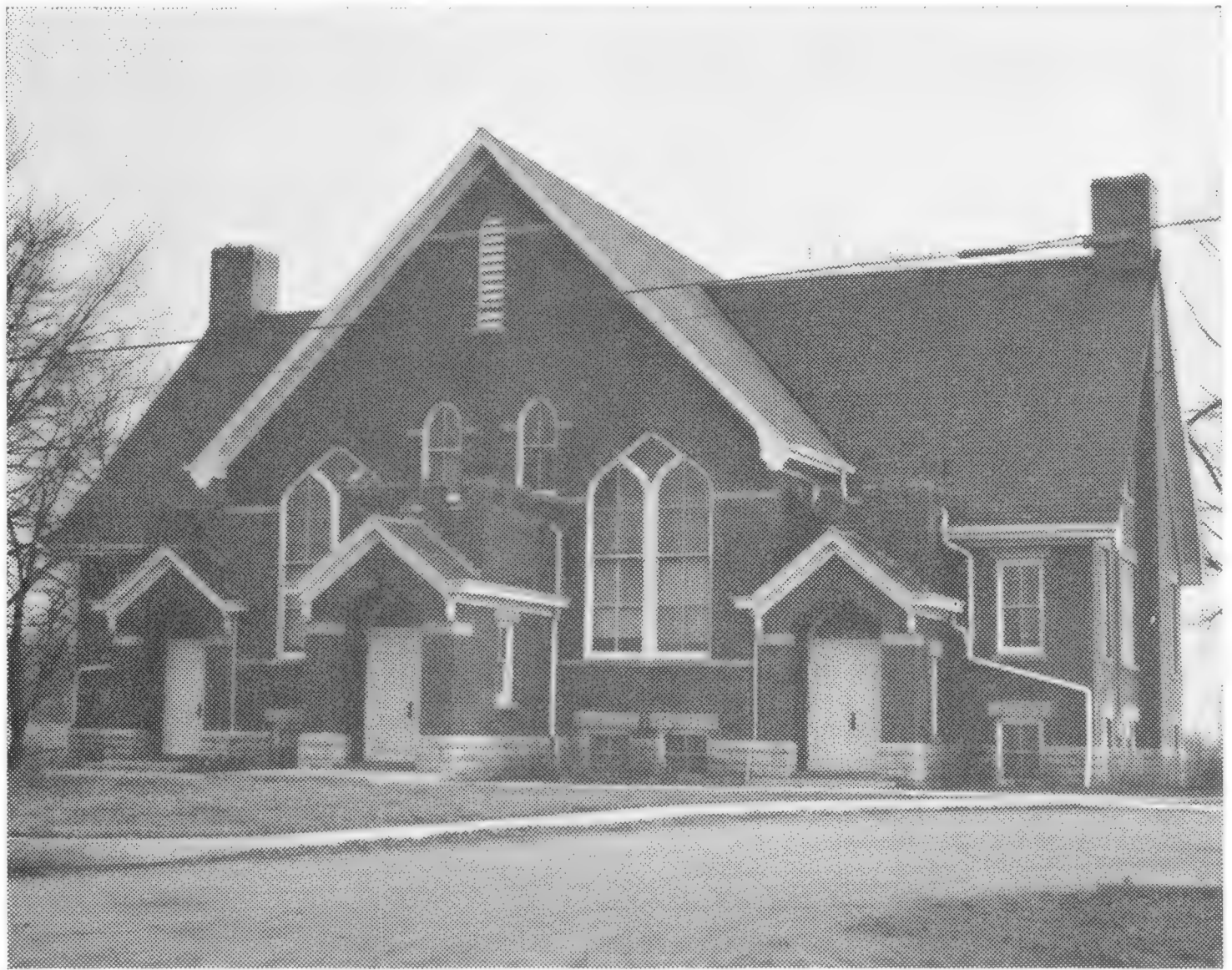
As we enter the period of this history (1920) we find John W. Beeghly in charge of Bear Creek. He was a descendant of the Bowmans mentioned above. In 1916 the church ordained Parker Filbrun, also a Bowman descendant. He, with Ivan Erbaugh, then in Bethany Seminary, perhaps Cyrus Bantz, and Alvah Richards, composed the ministerial corps in Bear

Creek at the beginning of the third decade of the twentieth century. Later the church ordained Wilbur Bantz and George Hunn; Brother Hunn recently became a pastor in Wisconsin. Arthur and David Hunn were licensed.

The list of elders and ministers who have resided within this congregation since 1920 includes John W. Beeghly, Parker M. Filbrun, Carl Swallow, Allen Weimer, Willis Kreider, H. H. Eby, Earl Neff, George Hunn, Alvah Richards, Frank Brower, Arthur Hunn, and David Hunn.

The church ordained Alvah Richards to the eldership in 1928, Frank Brower in 1938, and George Hunn in 1940.

Wilbur Bantz had been elected to the ministry in 1923, was later ordained, as noted above, and is now serving as pastor in Decatur, Illinois.



The Bear Creek Church

Not including the pastor, ministers now residing at Bear Creek are Carl Swallow, Allen Weimer, and David Hunn.

Parker Filbrun was the first part-time pastor, serving from 1922 to 1931. Norman B. Wine followed as part-time pastor, continuing from 1931 to 1936. Galen B. Royer also



served part time from 1938 to 1940. L. John Weaver then served as summer pastor. Paul Wright became the first full-time pastor; he ministered to the church from 1943 until 1947. He was followed by Ernest Detrick, who left in 1949 and was succeeded after one year by George Phillips from Elkhart, Indiana, who is the present pastor.

The following deacons have been called since 1920: Charles Erbaugh and Harry O. Shank, 1925; Albert Heeter and Everett Lentz, 1940; Edwin Hunn and Merlin Shank, the latter two not yet being permanently installed.

The Sunday-school superintendents in succession have been: Parker Filbrun, Charles Erbaugh, Frank Brower, Anna Stoner, Howard Erbaugh, Frank Brower, Charles Erbaugh, Merrill Royer, Harry Gilbert, George A. Hunn, and Everett Lentz.

Bear Creek was the home church of Anna Eby Lichty, who spent many years in the India mission field. Her church supported her on the foreign field. Upon her retirement Bear Creek turned to the support of Claude Wolfe, in Ecuador, then to Myrnabelle Wolfe, in the same field.

Parker Filbrun and Frank Brower have each shared in the district work as a member of the Apportionment Committee; Paul Wright was for a time a member of the Comity Committee; and the pastor, George Phillips, was a member of the newly formed District Board. He had previously been a member of the Ministerial Board. Anna Stoner has served on the District Women's Work Cabinet. Dorothy Hunn was on the Children's Work Cabinet. Lowell Erbaugh, Ivan and Clara Patterson, and Arthur and David Hunn were members of the District Youth Cabinet.

With a present membership of three hundred sixty-two and a Sunday-school attendance of over two hundred, Bear Creek finds its facilities inadequate despite the remodeling of the entire basement and the addition of a balcony. The church and the parsonage form a beautiful layout for this growing congregation, which is rapidly changing from a rural to a rural-urban parish as more and more Dayton-employed people locate about the church.



## BEAVER CREEK

The Beaver Creek church seems to have had more or less of an independent origin, its relation to the Lower Miami congregation being obscure. Whether it was involved in the division of territory set up by the "Virginia Committee" in 1811 is not known.

Brethren settled in the vicinity of Beaver Creek as early as 1805. It is known that the Coys settled here in 1800. But the date of the organization seems to have been in 1812. They worshiped in homes at first and then erected the first house of worship in 1843. The main portion of the present structure was built in 1893 and dedicated on November 18. At the time of the former history the membership was fifty-five and Aaron Coy was the presiding elder.



The Beaver Creek Church

Since 1920 the Beaver Creek community has changed from a strictly rural to a typical suburban area with the development of many subdivisions here and the erection of hundreds of new homes.

The church was remodeled in 1935. Some changes since



that date have included the installation of an organ and many modernizing features.

It was noted above that Elder Aaron Coy was elder at the time of the 1920 history. In that same year Elder Howard Eidemiller, of New Carlisle, began to serve the church as both pastor and elder. He continued in this double capacity until 1935. E. Friend Couser, a resident elder here, became the pastoral leader on that date and continued his work here until 1946. Then the church began with a full-time man, calling Paul J. Wright to be the pastor. He had been pastor at Bear Creek. In 1948 the church invited Clarence Priser, of the Eversole church, to carry on for a while. Then in 1949 J. Clyde Forney, the present pastor, came from Roanoke, Virginia, to direct the work at Beaver Creek.

The eldership since 1920 has been in the hands of the following: Howard Eidemiller, 1920-35; Hugh Cloppert, 1935-41; Roy Teach, 1941-47; Philip H. Lauver, 1947-52; and Omer B. Maphis from 1952 to the present.

Besides the ministers named above, Mrs. E. Friend Couser was licensed to preach on March 12, 1939, and Leonard Lutz on May 20, 1946. She has a permanent license.

Of the deacons installed the first following the completion of the former history in 1920 were I. M. Coy, Harry Haverstick, and Edward Bailey, all installed in January 1921. In 1926 Joseph Coy was installed, and in 1937 Clifford Miller. Two more, Dale Lutz and Horace Ferguson, were installed in 1945. In 1952 Lawrence Coy and Woodrow Coppess were installed.

The church ordained E. Friend Couser an elder in June 1932.

The Sunday-school superintendents in order of their service, as recorded, have been: John Stauffer, who was perhaps the first, John Early, D. C. Coy, I. M. Coy, Robert Bear, Harry Haverstick, Charles N. Garber, Merlin Eidemiller, Dale Lutz, Horace Coy, and Dale Lutz.

Shirley Ferguson, of this congregation, spent two years in Brethren Volunteer Service.

E. Friend Couser has served on the Mission Board of Southern Ohio, and Mrs. Couser as president of Women's Work.

The present pastor, J. Clyde Forney, is a member and the chairman of the District Board.

The church observed the one-hundredth anniversary of the dedication of its first building in 1943. It entertained the midwinter youth conference in December of 1948.

The membership has increased more than two hundred since the publication of the former history, to a total of two hundred eighty.

### BEECH GROVE

The history of the Beech Grove church roots back into the history of what was once known as the Palestine church. The first Brethren settlement in the vicinity of Palestine occurred prior to 1830. The records show that a separate organization was effected about that time with Emanuel Flory as elder. In 1868 a church was built just south of Palestine. Eight years later another structure was erected on West Branch. In the year 1888 still another house of worship was constructed at Beech Grove. In 1904 the Palestine territory was divided; the west part was to be known as Beech Grove and the section on the east retained the name Palestine.

Daniel Garver was given oversight of Beech Grove, which had sixty-eight charter members. Sylvan Bookwalter was presiding over this church in 1920 when the former Southern Ohio history was written. He continued to serve as elder until December 1923. He was in turn succeeded by B. F. Petry, after whom S. A. Blessing presided until 1936. D. G. Berkebile had charge, 1937-38; then Roy Honeyman, 1938-44. In October 1944 Dolar Ritchey became elder, having been pastor of Beech Grove since the preceding May. Prior to the calling of Dolar Ritchey as the first full-time pastor, E. S. Hollinger served as part-time pastor from October 1938 to December 1943. Other elders and ministers who resided in the congregation since 1920 include: Solomon Bolinger, A. V. Poling, and H. Jesse Baker, who pastored the church for a while.

This church called and licensed Kenneth Hollinger into



the ministry in 1931 and installed him in 1932. In 1949 it licensed Donald Ritchey, who was ordained in 1951.

Six deacons have been installed since 1920, as follows: Perry Eby and Elmer Miller, 1930; Everet Druley and H. H. Rife, 1938; Charles Baker and Marvin Baker, 1944. Four deacons were received by letter: Charles Miller, W. V. Petry, Paul Weimer, and Ira Mikesell.

Superintendents in charge of the Sunday school since 1920, in order, have been: Orville McKee, Harvey Petry, Perry Eby, H. H. Rife, Alva Petry, Chauncey Pippenger, Harvey Petry.



**The Beech Grove Church**

With sixty-eight charter members in 1904, Beech Grove had grown to ninety-three by 1920, and now has two hundred fourteen listed.

The original structure still stands, though many alterations have been made. Changes were made in the basement in 1937; in 1951 the building was raised and completely remodeled, and a tower and classrooms were added.

A farm of twenty-six acres, which was adjacent to the



churchyard, was purchased in 1944. The house was remodeled for a parsonage.

The church is very active in Men's Work and Women's Work, has contributed liberally to Brethren Service and the Heifers for Relief project. Lester Hollinger, Neva Hollinger, and Lois Eby, from this congregation, have served on the Southern Ohio Youth Cabinet. Perry Eby served a term as trustee of the Brethren Home at Greenville. The pastor, Dolar Ritchey, is a member of the District Board.

As one of Southern Ohio's strictly rural churches, Beech Grove is a good example of what a rural church can do.

### BETHANY

The Bethany church came by evolution, or was it by revolution? In 1925 the Brethren in Adams County began holding services in a schoolhouse, across the hills from the Cassel's Run church. Roy Engle, serving Cassel's Run, held services also at this school, known as Rennels Run or Egypt,



The Bethany Church



during the summer months. When school opened in the fall of 1926 the services could no longer be held in the school building.

So a move to build a church started. Grounds were secured. Virgin timber from the hills was cut. Both materials and labor were donated. H. M. Coppock, who was also serving in this area, was authorized to solicit funds from congregations in the district. The structure, twenty-four by thirty-six feet, was dedicated April 24, 1927, with J. H. Eidemiller delivering the sermon.

There developed opposition in the community, bordering on vandalism, and the church was moved to the present location just south of Cedar Mills in 1932. Besides those named above, Walter Hawke, Clarence Erbaugh, Otto Laursen, Fred Woodie, Jacob and Mary Couser, and Harold Freeman have served the congregation. The latter began in October 1951 and is there at the present time.

While Otto Laursen was pastor a parsonage was built. Afterward it was enlarged.

There are forty members here at the present time. The work has been under the direction of the Mission Board through all these years.

## BRADFORD

The Bradford church was organized out of Harris Creek territory and members. The movement toward establishing a separate congregation began with the organization of a Sunday school in the town in 1915. This was first held in a photographer's studio. Outgrowing this, the school was taken to Mildred Hall. Following, preaching services also began to be held in this hall. The attendance increased and interest in a separate organization led to a request for the privilege of establishing the Bradford Church of the Brethren.

The territory of the Harris Creek church was divided at a council meeting held in the Harris Creek church on January 20, 1917, the members of the church living in Bradford having appointed Brethren John M. and Ora Stover to be their

representatives plenipotentiary. The proposition presented to the meeting was that the territory of the proposed Bradford church should be the corporation of Bradford and such contiguous territory as should afterward be annexed to the said corporation. This proposition was accepted by the Harris Creek church.

This same committee had also been given authority to negotiate the settlement of the property rights of the Bradford members in the property of the Harris Creek church; it afterward met and decided upon the same with a like committee from the Harris Creek church. The Harris Creek church having accepted this plan of the joint committee, the way was clear to proceed with the new organization.



The Bradford Church

The Bradford Church of the Brethren was then organized at Mildred Hall on February 25, 1917, the meeting being called to order by Elder D. D. Wine of Covington, as chairman.

Other elders present were J. H. Christian and Lawrence Kreider. The church chose the following as its officers: John M. Stover, presiding elder; Harry C. Royer, clerk-treasurer.



The official board consisted of the following: John M. Stover, elder-in-charge; S. E. Porter, elder; Edward Miller, minister; and Clarence E. Crowell, deacon.

The membership included over one hundred charter members with a fine spirit of co-operation and a determination to forge ahead in a growing work. That they have succeeded is evidenced by a membership roll of three hundred twenty-one in early 1955.

In 1918 the movement for the erection of a church building began with the purchase of a lot and the permission to solicit the district for funds. A brick edifice of modern construction was built and was dedicated on December 9, 1923. The new structure cost \$23,000. On the evening of the day of dedication, J. Oscar Winger began a two weeks' revival which resulted in thirty accessions. By 1928 the congregation was debt free.

This building was enlarged in 1952 by the addition of a basement to the rear, which was roofed temporarily until a superstructure could be completed. This doubled the basement space and provided a modern kitchen. An electric organ had been purchased in 1949.

Theodore Eley was chosen for the ministry by the Bradford church in 1919, in the same meeting in which he asked for a transfer of membership to the Oakland church, which latter congregation cared for the installation.

J. M. Stover later moved to Columbus and S. E. Porter then assumed the eldership. Upon returning to Bradford Brother Stover was again placed in charge. G. E. Weaver, then pastor of the church, was made elder in 1939. Afterward Brother Stover served for a few years. In 1948 Moyne Landis, the Oakland pastor, was elected elder, and in 1952 Perry L. Huffaker, the West Milton pastor, succeeded him.

The pastors have all been part-time workers to the time of the present writing. S. E. Porter was the first to act as part-time pastor. He was succeeded by G. E. Weaver, who served seven years. He was followed in 1947 by E. Friend Couser, who continued until 1950, when Howard Erbaugh, the present pastor, began his service.

The deacon board consists of C. E. Crowell, Tom Crowell,

Jesse L. Fisher, Leo Ganger, H. J. Lehman, Wilbur Erbaugh, and H. C. Royer. John Eikenberry, a present member of the Historical Committee of Southern Ohio, is a resident elder, and J. E. Overholser is a resident minister.

E. Friend Couser and his wife, Mabel, have been active in district work, he as a member of the Mission Board and she as a leader in Women's Work. Howard Erbaugh was active in Men's Work. Roscoe Inman and wife spent twenty-one months in Brethren Service in Germany, where he supervised the construction of the Kassel House and she served as housekeeper for the Kassel BVS'ers.

A special observance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the dedication of the church was featured throughout the year 1948.

### BROOKVILLE

The origins of the Brookville church go back to the work of the "Virginia committee" sent to the Lower Miami church in 1811, when the original expansive territory of the Lower Miami church was divided into four divisions. One of these divisions was the Wolf Creek territory. This included the northwestern part of Montgomery County and the northeastern part of Preble County, comprising generally the area of the Brookville and Eversole churches.

Wolf Creek officially divided into these two congregations in August 1910. The Brookville church organized and became a separate congregation in November of that year. D. M. Garver was its first elder, succeeded the next year, 1912, by J. W. Fidler, who then began a long term of oversight of the Brookville church.

Not until 1915 was a house of worship dedicated. It was erected near the old church and was then adequate to all the needs of the growing congregation.

Elder J. W. Fidler was part-time pastor for several years following his election to the oversight of the church; then he became its full-time pastor, continuing until 1936. After a lapse of one year, Roy B. Teach became the pastor; his ministry



extended until 1947. In September of 1947, James H. Beahm took up the pastorate and remained until called to the Chicago church in September 1951. James C. Boitnott succeeded him that month and is the pastor at the time these lines are written.

When J. W. Fidler relinquished oversight of the church in 1936, Sylvan Bookwalter became elder and served until 1938, being succeeded by E. R. Fisher, who continued until 1950. In that year J. Oliver Dearing became moderator; he was succeeded by John H. Good in 1954.

The records show that Reuben Boomershine was ordained to the eldership in 1912 and Paul Kinsel in 1943. Ministers ordained include Reuben Boomershine, 1912; Omer B. Maphis, 1914; Ralph Hatton and Ray O. Shank, 1918; Daniel Weimer, 1920; Paul Kinsel, 1931; Don Frederick, 1943. Ralph Brumbaugh, a minister, moved into the congregation in 1950.



The Brookville Church

The following deacons have been installed since 1920: V. S. Dull, 1924; J. C. Brenner, Raymond Richards, and Fred Knierim, 1931; Paul Fidler and Carl Delk, 1948. John Bowser, a deacon, moved into the congregation in 1923, L. C.



Longanecker in 1942, Lloyd Brumbaugh in 1943, and Monroe Snider and Ellis Williamson in 1949.

Russell Helstern, a minister, moved into the congregation in 1942, and Harold Helstern the following year, the latter soon thereafter becoming pastor of the Harris Creek church. Glen Moyer moved in in 1923 and F. O. Shank in 1932. Both are ministers.

The church has been host to many district gatherings, including: the district conference, 1916 and 1933; the special district peace meeting in 1917; mission rallies and midwinter youth conferences.

Several from this church have filled important offices in the district, including Fred Knierim as railroad representative; Russell Helstern as camp director and at present a member of the District Board; Mrs. Helstern in Women's Work and on the District Board; Vern Dull in Men's Work; Levi Zumbrum as trustee of the Brethren Home; J. W. Fidler as moderator of district conference and as Standing Committee delegate; Roy B. Teach as a district officer, on the Ministerial Board, and as a member of Standing Committee; James H. Beahm on the Board of Christian Education and as moderator of district conference; Betty Helstern on the CBYF Cabinet.

Some remodeling was done to the church structure in 1945-46, including installation of a new heating plant. In 1947 a parsonage was purchased, located near the church. A new electric organ was installed in 1951. The fortieth anniversary of the organization was observed in November 1950. The membership is three hundred ninety.

### CASTINE

There is a sense in which the Castine church is older than the parent church, Prices Creek. The first house of worship in the Prices Creek territory was erected in 1850, at Castine, and served the entire congregation for fourteen years, until the church which is now Prices Creek was built. This building was made from timbers taken from the near-by forests, with puncheon floors and benches.



Castine continued to grow and developed an active program so that in 1922 it was granted the privilege of becoming a separate organization. There were one hundred six charter members, which included two elders, Joseph Longanecker and C. C. Petry. The charter deacons were: John Wertenbaker, William Grossnickle, Jacob Petry, and Willie Wondle. The latter was made local overseer of the church services and other activities following the death of the two resident ministers in 1927.

S. A. Blessing, of West Milton, was chosen first presiding elder of the new organization and served continuously until 1944, when Theodore Eley of Union City succeeded him, serving until his death in 1945. Then W. C. Stinebaugh, who was pastor of the Pitsburg church, was chosen as elder. He served until 1950, when he moved from the district and was succeeded by Dolar Ritchey, pastor of the Beech Grove church.



The Castine Church

Deacons elected since the time of organization include Walter Petry; A. E. Rinehart, 1927; Charles Condon, 1936; Christian Crawford, 1938; Frank Glick, Eldon Whitehead, and



Virgil Rinehart, 1946. Received by letter were Clayton Whitehead, 1941, and Roy Rogers, 1946.

The Sunday-school superintendents in their succession have been: C. C. Slade, Elsie Petry, Christian Crawford, Orval Fourman, Lester Studebaker, Eldon Whitehead, Gerald Brown, Harold Petry, Raymond Stocksdales, and Gerald Brown. The last reported enrollment in the Sunday school was one hundred sixty-four.

For many years after the Castine church was organized the preaching was done by alternating the local ministers and calling in ministers from other congregations. The local ministerial board had supervision of this matter. Following the death in the same year (1927) of Elder C. C. Petry and Elder Joseph Longanecker, the church called and licensed Glenn Rust as a minister. After some training at Bethany Seminary and graduation from Manchester College, Brother Rust was made supply pastor from 1931 to 1936, since which time he has given the church part-time service during the school months, while teaching in the Dayton public schools, and full-time service in the summer months. In the twenty-four years he has thus served, the church has grown to a membership of one hundred eighty-four.

Castine is active in Women's Work and Men's Work, and conducts a vacation church school each year. It partially supports Kathryn Kiracofe, missionary in India.

In addition to its pastor, Brother Glenn C. Rust, the congregation has called into the ministry and licensed Edgar Petry (1938), who is a pastor in Northwestern Ohio, and Floyd Emrick (1947), who is a pastor in Northeastern Ohio.

In 1925 the church was remodeled and a basement was added. Since then other improvements have been made and the congregation now enjoys worshiping in a very attractive, comfortable, and inviting structure. In 1950 a centennial service was held celebrating the one-hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the congregation.

The Castine church is the home of two rather well-known women of Southern Ohio: Katie Crawford, gifted in illustrated chalk lectures, and May Allread Baker, author of *Willow Brook Farm*, a book of verse, and poetry contributor to many



Brethren and non-Brethren publications. The pastor, Glenn C. Rust, is a member of the District Board.

### CEDAR GROVE

The Cedar Grove building was erected in 1895 and the congregation was a part of Prices Creek until 1941. During the early years many lay people and ministers had an interest here. E. S. Hollinger was serving this church as pastor at the time the former history ended. He continued until 1926. At that time Brother Ben Timmons, who had been elected to the ministry in 1921, began serving the church and continued when it became a separate congregation in 1941.

The organizing council was held on February 6, 1941, with the District Mission Board (E. R. Fisher, Oliver Royer, and H. M. Coppock) present. Several ministers were also present.

Theodore Eley was elected elder and continued in charge until ill-health compelled him to resign. Elder Dolar Ritchey succeeded him and is the present elder. Brother Edgar Petry was elected pastor and came on the field in June 1941, serving until 1945. During this time the building was raised and a basement constructed. In 1945 Brother Arno Holderread became pastor; he served until 1948, when Brother Clarence Brubaker took the pastorate. In 1953 Brother Ira Oren was called and is leading the congregation at the present time.

In 1941 there were fifty-four charter members, nineteen of whom are still living and members. The first deacons of the new organization were Ross Moore and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Rogers. The present deacon board is made up of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Moore, Mr. Ross Moore, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Timmons. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Crowe were deacons, but he was licensed to the ministry in July 1953. Clarence Brubaker was elected an elder here at the same time.

The Sunday-school superintendents listed are: Ada Rogers, 1942-44; Ross Moore, 1944-46; Gerald Boitner, 1946-47;

Louis Apwisch, 1947-48; John Lakola, 1948-49; Clyde Moore, 1949—.

Soon after the church was organized a women's work and a men's work group were begun, and both have been



The Cedar Grove Church

very active. The men regularly rent a farm, the proceeds from it going to the church.

In 1944 Sister Ida Pierson gave a large part of the money needed to purchase a house and nine acres of land to be used as a parsonage, contributed as a memorial to her deceased husband. This home was later modernized and the church building remodeled, changing the entrance and installing a gas furnace. In 1954 the church purchased a farm of thirty-eight acres with a seven-room house and sold the previous parsonage. The men of the church farm the land in addition to another farm rented annually.

The church has grown from the charter membership of fifty-four and an attendance of about thirty-five to a membership of one hundred fourteen and an average attendance of about one hundred eighteen.



## CHARLESTON

Work was begun here in 1895, when the Southern Ohio Mission Board decided to erect a building after members living near here called for assistance. Soon after its erection Jacob Sandy held a series of meetings here. The work was placed under his care.

Various visiting ministers and lay workers were sent to Charleston through the years from 1902 to 1910. In that year Lester Heisey took up the work here as pastor; he remained until 1914. The Mission Board had erected a parsonage in 1910. Oliver Royer followed Lester Heisey for four years, then Lee Patton took charge (1918). I. G. Blocher was elder-in-charge.

As we begin the history of Charleston after 1920 we find thirty-four members and a Sunday school of thirty.

The church minutes from 1920 to the present record that six revival meetings were held, some with splendid results. In 1921 the attendance increased to its highest level for some years. Then there was a lapse of interest. Lee Patton resigned as pastor in September 1922, and there was an interim of nearly a year without resident leadership. In August 1923 C. V. Coppock began serving part time. This plan was continued until June 1924. There was a lapse of interest in the years immediately following. The parsonage was sold in 1931. But in 1929 the Sunday school was reopened by the American Sunday School Union.

In August of 1931 a business meeting was held; D. G. Berkebile was made elder and L. D. Young began to serve as pastor. There were twenty-six accessions in the years 1931-33. There was a good attendance. A group of promising young people were showing an unusual interest. Brother Young was also ministering to the Circleville church.

In 1933 Charles Essick followed L. D. Young in this arrangement. He continued in it six years. Arthur Cupp then took over until 1941. In November of that year Harold Myers, serving Circleville, began leadership of the Charleston church. Through the winters of 1941 and 1942 I. R. Beery also came in every two weeks. Brother Beery then moved into the community during the summer months of 1942 and 1943. Harold

Myers returned then to help the church. Lester Fike became pastor, in conjunction with Circleville, in 1944, remaining until 1946. He was succeeded by Carl Lauer, D. R. Murray preaching on alternate second weeks. In August 1948 Otto Laursen came. Mrs. Laursen died within four months and he remained only until May 1949. D. R. Murray then came on alternate Sundays



The Charleston Church

until September 1949, upon the return of I. R. Beery, who was there until April 1950. In May 1950 D. R. Murray was asked to serve again. He comes to Charleston two Sundays each month. The attendance is reported as steady and the young people especially are very much interested. In the years since 1920, forty-five accessions were recorded.

At various times improvements have been made on the building. A vestibule and a belfry were added in 1942, new windows were installed, and the interior was redecorated. There are forty-six members at Charleston now.



## CINCINNATI

A Sunday school was organized in Cincinnati in 1912 in a hall rented by the District Mission Board for the school. Among the first preaching services here were those conducted by D. M. Garver when he held a short revival in December of that year. In 1917 the Mission Board of Southern Ohio secured R. N. Leatherman to direct the work. During that year the district was canvassed for funds to build a church. A vacant lot, forty by fifty feet, was purchased on the corner of Chase and Chambers streets, and also the adjoining lot, forty by one hundred fifty feet, with a six-room house. This became the parsonage, and a modern church building was erected on the vacant lot. It was dedicated January 19, 1919, with H. K. Ober of Pennsylvania delivering the address. There were about a dozen members then. J. W. Fidler was the elder and R. N. Leatherman the pastor.

R. N. Leatherman remained as pastor until 1923. Following a brief interim Glen Moyer came to pastor the church, continuing until 1927, when A. R. Smith succeeded him for one year. Ben Hirt served six months. He was followed in 1929 by J. R. Hunter, who served until 1932. H. M. Coppock took over the work then, leading the church until 1943. Hugh Cloppert was pastor from 1943 to 1948. Quentin Evans followed in 1948 and served two years. Richard Wenger followed him for two years. Then Dan Blickenstaff, from Middletown, was called and is the present leader.

During all these years the elders-in-charge were from the Mission Board and included J. W. Fidler, J. H. Eidemiller, D. G. Berkebile, Oliver Royer, Orion Erbaugh, Ray O. Shank, Hugh Cloppert, and John H. Good.

Glenn Blough, Benjamin Stoner, and Wilbur Hoover, ministers, have lived here, and Lloyd Danzisen was licensed in 1945. The church had licensed Wilbur Hoover and Glenn Blough in 1941. Frank Replogle, an elder, also lived here for a short while. L. M. Denny, a minister, lived here for about nine years. Landon Leaverton, a minister, lived here about two years.

The church has installed the following as deacons: Joseph

Carl Replogle and Emerson Leaverton, about 1945; Henry Hudson, 1950; and Alvin Grube, 1951.

Those who have led the Sunday school since 1920 include



The Cincinnati Church

Ade LaMonda, Ray Kuns, Ray Mack, E. C. Sipple, Harvey Berkey, John Meyers, D. G. Replogle, Emerson Leaverton, Stanley Day, Glenn Blough, Harry Skiles, Henry Hudson, Robert Stevens, Alvin Grube, and Dwight Crawford.

The church has had an active women's work program and the men of the church are organized. Women's work was organized in 1917. A Sunday evening meeting of mothers and daughters was a feature for several years following 1932. Men's work was organized in 1943. Other activities, including a Sunday evening Bible school and a boys' club, were featured.

H. M. Coppock served for some time on the District Mission Board and Hugh Cloppert on the Ministerial Board.

The membership now numbers eighty-eight. George Phillips presides over the church.



## CIRCLEVILLE

The Circleville church started out in the 1870's as a colored congregation. A little church was built and there seemed to be prospects of a successful church. But not so. By 1907 the membership had so disintegrated that the District Mission Board considered selling the church property and closing the work.

But, instead, interest turned to the white people. A few converts were made and the "complexion" changed. The Mission Board sent Ada Eby to do personal work here. Ministers were sent in to preach. Miss Eby married a minister, Earl Neff, and their labors were joined when he was put in charge.

A better location was secured and a new church was dedicated in 1912. D. S. Filbrun succeeded the Neffs and Mina Bosserman came as a personal worker. In succession, beginning in 1914, the leaders were Norman A. Conover, C. C. Sollenberger, and Oliver Royer, who was here when the former history closed. I. G. Blocher was the elder.

The incomplete records seem to indicate that Oliver Royer remained until 1922. After an interim, C. V. Coppock came and remained until about 1926. He was followed by A. G. Crosswhite for a few years and then C. L. Wilkins took over. He was succeeded by Leonard Young, who probably remained until 1933. Charles Essick began as pastor that year and continued until his decease in 1941.

While Charles Essick was pastor the church was remodeled, adding two Sunday-school rooms and providing restrooms in the basement. After his decease Mrs. Essick was in charge for a while. Visiting ministers preached. Harold Myers came in 1942 and directed the work until 1944. He was followed by Lester Fike until he answered the call to the Springfield church in 1947. He was succeeded by Carl Lauer, who served until 1950, when he went to the Turkey Creek church, Kentucky. Then John C. Hurst, of Gratis, was asked to become pastor. Accepting, he continues there at present.

Other improvements have been made on the church building since that referred to above. The parsonage is next to the church and both are being redecorated and painted at

this time. The congregation has grown from twenty members in about 1920 to eighty-one, as shown by the present record.

Since the church has been assisted by the district



The Circleville Church

financially through the years, usually some member of the Mission Board has acted as elder of the church.

There have been setbacks through the years but there seems to be promise at present of a substantial growth.

### COLUMBUS CO-OPERATIVE BRETHREN

The Columbus church is a co-operative organization of the Brethren Church and the Church of the Brethren. The Columbus church building was built by the Brethren Church in 1911 and was used by them as the First Brethren church of Columbus. The Church of the Brethren had no organized services in Columbus until some years later when the two



denominations formulated a plan of co-operation for church work in Columbus, using the Brethren church building.

The movement that led up to the establishment of a co-operative church in Columbus started on December 1, 1929, when D. R. Murray, a minister in the Church of the Brethren who was teaching in the public schools in Columbus, began preaching for the First Brethren church in Columbus. On January 16, 1930, a communion service for the members of the Brethren Church and those of the Church of the Brethren was held at the First Brethren church. The Brethren ministers present were: George Stanley Baer, Charles A. Bame, J. Allen Miller, Martin Shively, and R. E. Gottschall. The Church of the Brethren ministers present were: E. S. Coffman, Perry Prather, Charles Morris, G. E. Yoder, Lloyd Hoff, Ora DeLauter, and D. R. Murray. During the spring months of 1930 several meetings were held in Columbus by representatives of the Ohio District of the Brethren Church and the Southern Ohio District of the Church of the Brethren to discuss and formulate plans for co-operative church work in Columbus.

On July 1, 1930, the Co-operative Brethren church of Columbus was organized. It was placed under the joint care and direction of the Ohio Mission Board of the Brethren Church and the Southern Ohio Mission Board of the Church of the Brethren. D. R. Murray was selected as the part-time pastor. The church has continued under his leadership up to the present time.

Some of the Brethren chosen by their respective mission boards, through the years, to assist in the supervision of the Columbus church have been: for the Brethren Church, Dyoll Belote, George Stanley Baer, E. F. Miller (a layman), J. G. Dodds, and E. M. Riddle; for the Church of the Brethren, E. S. Coffman, D. G. Berkebile, J. H. Eidemiller, and John H. Good. The present elders are: W. Clayton Berkshire for the Brethren Church and H. H. Helman for the Church of the Brethren.

Two deacons and their wives have been installed by the co-operative church: Mr. and Mrs. Ben Starkey in 1941, and Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Cook in 1943. Mr. and Mrs. Clark Crouse were installed prior to 1930 by the Brethren Church and are still serving in the co-operative church. The Sunday-school

superintendents have been: G. Hayes Coleman (who was the Brethren superintendent in 1930) from 1930 to 1933, R. E. Cook from 1933 to 1940, and Ben Starkey from 1940 to the present.



The Columbus Co-operative Church

The Co-operative Brethren church of Columbus is recognized officially by both denominations in their district and national conferences.

The church is located at West Third and Oregon avenues. The membership is listed at sixty-four. An outstanding feature of the work there is a very successful vacation Bible school each summer.

The property is owned by the Brethren people. The District Board of Southern Ohio assists in the pastoral expense.

Plans have been completed for establishing a Brethren Student Fellowship at Ohio State University and Dwight Farringer has been called to direct the work. It is believed that the fellowship and the co-operative church will discover mutual interests and pool their resources.



## CONSTANCE

It was in 1897 that the first services were held by the Brethren in Constance, Kentucky. The minister was D. M. Garver, of Trotwood. The first, and later the leading, members were Brother and Sister John T. Moll.

In 1901-02 a church, twenty by thirty feet, was erected and was dedicated by Brother Garver. In 1908 John T. Moll was called to the ministry and began to do the preaching. Assistance was occasionally given by the Mission Board, which sent down ministers from the churches of Southern Ohio. At the time of the 1920 history of Southern Ohio, Constance had seventeen members and a Sunday school averaging thirty-seven. J. W. Fidler was the elder.

In the spring of 1929, Miss Kathryn Royer, under the direction of the Mission Board of the district, came to Constance to assist the Molls. She worked faithfully and helped many enjoy a fuller Christian experience.

In the fall of 1935, Orion Erbaugh, of Trotwood, a member of the District Mission Board, began serving this church, having just been licensed to preach. He continued until in 1941, then began to serve the Hamilton church with part time at Constance. In 1944 the church licensed B. F. Click and Lawrence Rodamer. In December of 1944, Orion Erbaugh died and his wife took over active direction of the work. The two licentiates mentioned above were ordained to the ministry in 1946 and gave active assistance to the work here. Mrs. Erbaugh continues her labors at Constance as this history is being written, and the interest is good. The church is growing by new accessions. The present membership is seventy-two.

The church was remodeled and an addition constructed in 1941, and in 1950 the basement was modernized. The driveway and parking lot were provided in 1951. In 1953 the church completed the improvement of the parsonage. Much of the labor was donated by members and friends in the district.

The church has installed five deacons in recent years; Lawrence Rodamer and B. F. Click in 1939, and Elmer Peeno, Ben Reeves, and William Lane, Jr., in 1945. As indicated



above, Lawrence Rodamer and B. F. Click were licensed in 1944 and ordained ministers in 1946.

H. M. Coppock became elder-in-charge in 1939, Orion



The Constance Church

Erbaugh in 1944, Roy Teach in 1945, and Clarence Erbaugh in 1947.

Those who have served as Sunday-school superintendents, in order, are: John T. Moll, Kathryn Royer, Lawrence Rodamer, William Lane, Jr., Lawrence Rodamer, Floyd Click, and William Peeno.

Throughout the years of its existence Constance has been under the care of the District Mission Board and Southern Ohio has provided funds for carrying on the work.

## COVINGTON

The Covington church was one of the three first formed out of the Stillwater church. The first meetings in the Covington area were held in homes, barns, or groves. The first house of worship was built about 1840, between Pleasant Hill and Covington, but nearer the former. It was built of logs. Preaching was in both German and English. Gradually



the group began to divide into Stillwater and Upper Stillwater or Covington and Harris Creek. In 1849 the second church was erected, on the present site of Camp Sugar Grove. It was forty by eighty feet and was of stone. The congregation grew. Before long there was a call for services in Covington. About 1861-62, members living there began having services in a Baptist church. James Quinter was secured for a series of meetings, in which forty-four new members were added. A Sunday school was organized in 1867. James Quinter moved to Covington in 1866 and the work grew steadily. Then came a call for a house of worship here. In 1872 a large brick church was erected. The Sugar Grove house was shared with the Newton (Pleasant Hill) congregation. In 1874 it was replaced with the present fifty-by-eighty-foot brick house. The two congregations shared its use, especially for love feasts.



The Covington Church

The church house erected in 1872 was replaced in 1911 by a large modern building excelled by very few in the Brotherhood. George W. Flory was the pastor at this time.



He was the pastor as the former history closed. The membership was five hundred twenty-five and the average Sunday-school attendance was three hundred forty-two. At that time Covington was the district's largest church.

Well-known men who had been in the Covington church up to this time included James Quinter, I. J. Rosenberger, and Isaac Frantz. James Quinter edited the *Gospel Visitor* in his home here for a while. It was printed in Dayton.

Entering the third decade of the twentieth century we find the church under the pastoral direction of George W. Flory with Isaac Frantz acting as presiding elder. The pastorate of George W. Flory terminated in 1920, following ten years of leadership here. C. F. McKee came as pastor in 1921 and served until 1929. O. P. Williams followed him, leaving in the spring of 1930. Then J. O. Click was called to guide the church, remaining four years. G. L. Wine was called in 1934 and served until 1940, when he was called to Greenville. After a brief interim, in 1941 Ray O. Shank was invited by the congregation to be its pastor. Brother Shank's ministry continued for ten years. In 1951 Millard Wilson was called from Pennsylvania to be the pastor and is the leader of the congregation at this time.

A parsonage, which was formerly the home of Isaac Frantz, was purchased in 1920. It stands across the street from the church. The church was redecorated and carpeted in 1928. An electric organ was dedicated in 1937. Chimes were added in 1949. The kitchen was remodeled in 1951.

The Piqua church was organized in 1927 by the Covington members living there, and a dividing line between the two churches was agreed upon.

D. D. Wine and George Mohler followed Isaac Frantz as elders-in-charge. Following the coming of C. F. McKee as pastor he was made elder and served until 1930. At that time the pastor, J. O. Click, became the presiding elder. When G. L. Wine came in 1934 to be the pastor he was given charge as elder. So also Ray O. Shank when he began as pastor in 1941. When Brother Shank resigned, Moyne Landis of the Oakland church was made elder-in-charge. The present elder is Leland Emrick.



The Covington church licensed Clarence Younker in 1930, relicensed him in 1931, and later ordained him to the ministry. Oran Yount was ordained a minister in 1931. Roy Karns was ordained an elder in 1950.

In 1933 four deacons were installed: Lawrence Arnold, John Garst, Warren Fisher, and Fred Watson. In 1950 Mark Snider, Wilfred Erbaugh, and Lester George were elected and installed.

E. M. Fox was the Sunday-school superintendent during the writing of the first Southern Ohio history. He was succeeded in 1921 by C. F. McKee, pastor. S. S. Miller acted in this capacity from 1926 to 1929. Then J. N. Arndall, 1929-30. J. L. Baker served from 1930 to 1933. Fred Watson was in this office the two following years. J. L. Baker was chosen again, 1933-35. A sister, Mrs. Cora Fisher, succeeded him in 1937 and served ten years. She was followed by Wilfred Erbaugh, 1947-49, and he by Fern Frey, who was superintendent until 1953, when Raymond Garst succeeded her.

Dorothy Inman and Homer Wilson went as missionaries to Africa from this congregation. E. B. Deeter was a member of the Auditing Committee of the district and J. L. Baker of the District Men's Work Cabinet. Mrs. G. L. Wine was president of Women's Work for Southern Ohio, and Ray Porter, Jr., was treasurer for the district. Mrs. Millard Wilson is director of Children's Work for the district.

This church was host to the midwinter youth conference in 1927, 1938, and 1951. Also the church entertained the district conferences of 1931 and 1953.

Covington has been "relief minded," beginning back in 1937 with \$2.50 per month to Spanish relief. The Sunday school increased the amount to as much as \$55.00 per month in 1948. In 1946, \$250 worth of woolens for blankets were purchased and sent abroad. Gifts to the veterans' hospital in Dayton, to Puerto Rico, and to Europe were made in the meantime. The young people of the church sponsored a carload of cereal for relief, the project amounting to \$3,750.

The membership is now four hundred eleven and the prospects are for continued growth.

## DONNELS CREEK

The Donnels Creek church came into being just after the turn of the nineteenth century. John Garber, who died probably in 1813, was the first elder. Meetings were held in homes and barns, or even in forests and on lawns. The earliest services were in German.

The West Charleston (Hickory Grove), Troy (Casstown), New Carlisle, and Springfield churches all grew out of territory at first included in the Donnels Creek congregation. The first of these to be organized out of the territory was Hickory Grove in 1830. Casstown (Lost Creek) followed in 1840. New Carlisle became a separate organization in 1914. Springfield organized as a congregation in 1918. In addition, Donnels Creek conducted services in Madison County, lastly at Summerford, and in Greene County, south of Jamestown. The efforts in these two locations did not produce the desired results and they were later abandoned.

It was in 1848 that the first Brethren church was erected in Clark County. It was a large wooden structure built where the present new structure now stands. By 1881, the congregation had grown to include some three hundred members. But that year one hundred twenty-six were lost in the Old Order division. In 1895 the first building gave way to a much larger one, which was later remodeled with Sunday-school rooms and a gallery. Again in 1938 it was further remodeled with a rededication service in November of that year. This is the structure that burned to the ground in February 1943.

At the time of the 1920 history Donnels Creek had one hundred members, including three ministers and seven deacons. The Sunday school averaged eighty-five in attendance. The ministers were Jacob Sandy, elder-in-charge, Leonard Young, and Cyrus Funderburg. Jacob Sandy was acting as part-time pastor.

The church was afterward shepherded by the following part-time pastors, Cyrus Funderburg, Glen Weimer, Leonard Young, Jacob Gingrich, Rolland Flory, and Walter Hawke, in succession.

In September 1948 Ross Noffsinger was called to be the first full-time pastor; he is there as this is written.



Of the deacons serving in 1920, only one, Russell Studebaker, survives.

During this period Rolland Flory, Jr., was licensed to the ministry in 1939 and was ordained a minister in 1940.

Since Jacob Sandy was in charge as elder in 1920, those succeeding have been Cyrus Funderburg in 1926, H. M. Coppock in 1932, Rolland Flory in 1935, and Walter Hawke in 1950.

The deacons installed since 1920 were: Wilbur Teach, 1922; Fred Teach, 1924; Miles Barnhart, 1926; George Barnhart, 1930; Lewis Metzger, 1933; Glenn Funderburg and Lester D. Snyder, 1947.

Jacob Funderburg was the Sunday-school superintendent at the beginning of the period of this history. He served until 1925. He was succeeded by George Getz, who was in turn followed by Glen Weimer in 1927. Harold Barnhart took charge in 1928, Harold Brunk in 1929, Glenn Funderburg in 1933, Rolland J. Flory in 1938, Lester Snyder in 1942, Laurel Flory in 1945, William Sayres in 1946, Wilfred Barnhart in 1947, and James Engle in 1950.

On Sunday morning, February 7, 1943, while services were in progress, the church building was discovered to be on fire. Some of the furnishings were saved but the building burned to the ground. A near-by abandoned church building was prepared for use and services were continued.

A new building was soon agreed upon and work was begun. An unusual amount of donated labor enabled the congregation to construct a very modern commodious brick building at a cost of \$50,000. It was dedicated on December 3, 1944, with Rufus Bowman of Bethany Biblical Seminary, Chicago, giving the dedicatory sermon. In three years, because of sacrificial giving, the church was out of debt.

The sacrificial giving continued, however, and soon a parsonage was purchased, remodeled, and modernized, and in a short time was free of debt. It is located about a mile west of the church.

Donnels Creek is a rural congregation, served by a pastor, Ross Noffsinger, who was recently designated the Ohio Church of the Brethren Minister of the Year.

The church has been host to the following district



gatherings: the Southern Ohio district conferences of 1929 and 1946; the Women's Work meeting of 1942; the missionary rally of 1945; and the Women's Work meeting of 1949.



The Donnels Creek Church

Ruth Funderburg has served on the District Board of Christian Education, and as a director of children's work. She and Mrs. Ross Noffsinger were camp leaders at Sugar Grove. Mrs. Noffsinger was vice-president of the District Women's Work. Ross Noffsinger was a member of the Men's Work Council and is now a member of the newly formed District Board.

Betty Young, Dorothy Teach, Wilma Studebaker, and Emily Metzger each gave a year or more of service in Brethren Volunteer Service. Wilbur Skillings gave a part of a year.

This congregation has had rapid growth since 1920 when it reported one hundred members. Membership and attendance at both Sunday school and worship have almost doubled. The membership at present is recorded as one hundred seventy-five. There is a marked church loyalty among its members.



## EAST DAYTON

More than one hundred years ago members living in the city of Dayton and ministers from near-by churches began to have services somewhere near where Wayne Avenue crosses Fifth Street. The preaching was continued until in 1845 a lot was purchased and surrounding churches joined in erecting a small church on the corner of Jackson and Van Buren streets. Services were held here until the Old Order division, when litigation was entered into for possession of the building. The house was retained by the Brethren, then was sold, and with the proceeds a new church was built in 1892, at Fourth and Philadelphia streets. This was of brick. Elders Jesse Stutsman and Aaron Coy directed the work. In 1925 a basement and a vestibule were added. This building was used until the congregation was able to occupy the beautiful new structure on the corner of East Third and Garland, a location purchased in 1946. The old building was then sold. This new building was dedicated on July 16, 1950, with V. F. Schwalm, president of Manchester College, giving the dedicatory address. Hundreds of hours of volunteer labor went into the building, reducing the cost of the lot and the building to less than \$107,000. The parsonage, which was acquired in 1941, was located at 26 North Monmouth. It has recently been sold and a new location is being sought.

The congregation was organized in 1903 with thirty-one charter members. Jacob Coppock was chosen elder. The name, East Dayton, was adopted. Josephus E. Barnhart succeeded Jacob Coppock as elder in 1908, at which time J. W. Fidler began as pastor, remaining until 1912. In succession D. M. Garver, S. A. Blessing, J. O. Garst, and J. W. Fidler acted as elders to the time of the 1920 history.

Following the departure of J. W. Fidler as pastor, there was no regular pastor until 1916, when J. O. Garst took over. In the fall of 1919 William J. Buckley was secured as pastor, the Mission Board paying part of the salary.

Beginning with the thirty-one charter members, the church had forty-two in 1917; two hundred in 1930; four hundred in 1940; over five hundred in 1945; and at present four hundred fifty-five.



Since 1920, elders-in-charge have been: J. W. Fidler, 1920-21; J. H. Eidemiller, 1921-25; D. G. Berkebile, 1925-31; C. F. McKee, 1931-33; Hugh Cloppert, 1933-41; William Hollinger, 1941-48; Henry T. Barnhart, 1948-54; Paul W. Kinsel, 1954—.



The East Dayton Church

William Buckley, the pastor from 1920 to 1925, was followed by Van B. Wright, 1925-31; then there was a woman pastor, Goldie Killion, for a while, 1931-33, after which Hugh Cloppert became the leader, 1933-41. He was succeeded by Chester H. Petry, 1941-51, and he by Lester E. Fike, who remained until 1954. Beginning with Hugh Cloppert the pastors were full-time men. At this writing Clarence G. Priser is acting as interim pastor.

There is record of the following ministers, besides those named above, having been resident here since 1920: William Netzley, J. A. R. Couser, E. Friend Couser, Elmer Brumbaugh, Alvah Richards, Bertrand Von De Augedeon, Jacob Couser, Mary Couser, and John Hurst.

Goldie Killion was licensed in 1929, Jacob and Mary



Couser in 1943 (the latter permanently licensed in 1945), and John C. Hurst in 1945. E. Friend Couser was ordained to the full ministry in 1918; Henry F. Barnhart in 1937; Bertrand Von De Augedeon in 1933; Jacob W. Couser in 1945; and John C. Hurst in 1946.

J. A. R. Couser was ordained an elder in 1918 and William J. Buckley in 1920.

Deacons installed include: Sherman Mohler, 1924; William F. Couser and Ira Landis, 1927; Henry T. Barnhart and William M. Miller, in 1936; Jesse Martin and Jesse Herman, 1940; and Marlan Denlinger, Curtis Shock, and Everett Coy in 1945.

The Sunday-school superintendents since 1920, in order, have been: Martin Zimmerman, Ralph Brumbaugh, Perry Hoke, N. W. Sollenberger, P. J. Klinger, Jacob W. Couser, Monroe Snyder, Henry T. Barnhart, John C. Martin, Maynard Coppock, and Elmer Beeghley.

An indebtedness of \$30,200 at the time of the dedication of the new building has been reduced to less than \$15,000. The church house, one of the most commodious of the recently erected churches in Southern Ohio, proved more than adequate for the district conference of 1952.

## EATON

The Eaton church grew out of the Upper Twin congregation, a group in Preble County organized in 1809 as the Twin church, but divided into Upper Twin and Lower Twin in 1830. The boundaries of Upper Twin were indefinite, but it is recorded that there were one hundred eighty members in 1920. The Gratis church and the Eaton church later comprised the early territory. Just how the membership was divided seems to be obscure. Services for the Upper Twin folks were held in homes for at least fifty years.

In 1912 steps were taken to rent a place for services in Eaton. In 1919 the Universalist church was rented for one year. Sunday school was held and preaching was shared by Aaron Brubaker, J. F. Deaton, B. F. Petry, and William



Deaton. Services were held in the Wheatville house, which had been erected in 1862. In 1929 services here were discontinued altogether.



The Eaton Church

The Eaton folks appointed a committee in 1921 to select a site for a church. In 1923 lots were purchased on Cherry Street, and in 1925 construction was begun. The new church was dedicated in April 1926, President Otho Winger, of Manchester College, giving the dedicatory sermon.

The date of organization of the Eaton church was August 1, 1926; there were then forty-seven members, with R. N. Leatherman as elder and N. B. Wine as part-time pastor. In 1928 I. G. Blocher became elder, serving until 1932, when N. B. Wine again took charge, remaining the present elder.

Regarding the actual date when Eaton became a separate congregation, a petition from the Upper Twin congregation to the district conference of 1938 asks that the congregation be granted the privilege of dividing into two congregations "probably to be known as Eaton and Gratis." The petition was granted.

N. B. Wine pastored the church until September 1928,



when I. G. Blocher became pastor as well as elder. In September 1932 C. G. Erbaugh became pastor for one year. His service was followed by the joint ministry of A. G. Crosswhite and William Deaton. Frank Eby served from 1935 to 1943, after which date L. John Weaver served as full-time pastor, leaving in 1950 to become pastor of the Potsdam church. Ellis G. Guthrie began as pastor in September 1951 and is the present incumbent. In the interim, 1950-51, Russell Helstern and other ministers preached.

The church has ordained two men to the eldership, William M. Deaton in 1936 and L. John Weaver in 1947. Dale Aukerman was licensed to the ministry in 1952.

Other ministers who have resided here are: Ivan Eikenberry, employed in the Eaton schools, 1939-41; Otto Laursen, living here in 1948-49; and Willis Kreider, still residing here.

The following have been superintendents of the Sunday school, in order: Anna F. Eyler, David Peters, Henry Aukerman, David Peters, Henry Aukerman, Henry Driver, Willard Shafer, Walter Denlinger, and Artie Cain.

Deacons installed by this church include N. A. Deaton, Earl Brower, Walter Denlinger, Daniel Deaton, and Milford Eikenberry.

Cyrus Kiracofe, Harold Kiracofe, William Deaton, and John Deaton have accompanied cattle ships to Europe or Asia. Dale Aukerman is in Brethren Volunteer Service. Kathryn Kiracofe is a missionary to India. Elizabeth Wampler has directed vacation Bible schools in Adams County, Ohio. Walter Denlinger served on the Apportionment Committee of Southern Ohio.

The church has been host to the midwinter youth conference (1937), the District Ladies' Aid meeting, 1937, and the Children's Workers' conferences of 1944 and 1951.

The tenth anniversary of the dedication of the church was held in 1936.

A major project recently taken on by the Eaton church was the erection of a most beautiful and convenient parsonage. In 1945 Walter Denlinger donated two lots to the church for use in locating a parsonage. Construction was begun in 1944 and the completed parsonage was dedicated in August 1948.

A large social room was provided in the basement which is used for church social occasions, committee meetings, board meetings, and Women's Work meetings.

Few congregations have enjoyed the rapid growth of the Eaton church. Starting with forty-seven charter members in 1926, it has developed into a church of three hundred sixty-nine members. Plans for expansion of the building to provide additional Sunday-school facilities have been completed.

### EVERSOLE

The Eversole church was at first a part of the Wolf Creek congregation. The Wolf Creek people built a house here in 1872. In 1910 the Wolf Creek church agreed to divide into two congregations, the southernmost group becoming the Eversole congregation. The first presiding elder was Samuel Horning. There seems to be no record of the number of charter members, but at the time of the former history there were one hundred fifty-eight members.

As we come into the period of this history we find John H. Root in charge as presiding elder. He had been ordained in 1914. Other elders residing in Eversole at this time include Harvey Priser and C. G. Erbaugh, the two having been ordained in 1917. Thomas Dillon and Harvey Landis were deacons at this time.

The old house erected in 1872 was dismantled and a new structure was built and dedicated in 1915, with Otho Winger, president of Manchester College, as the dedicatory speaker. A kitchen was added in 1948.

Elder John H. Root continued to preside over Eversole until 1922, when he was succeeded by C. G. Erbaugh. William Hollinger then took over in 1926, continuing until 1934. John H. Root took charge again and continued until 1942. Clarence G. Priser became elder in 1942; and in two years, 1944, C. G. Erbaugh was elected. In 1948 John Good of West Alexandria was chosen; he was succeeded by C. G. Erbaugh.

There have been two ordinations to the eldership since



1920, that of Clarence G. Priser in 1929 and that of Fred E. Woodie in 1932.

Ordained ministers who have resided in Eversole since 1920 include: John Root, Harvey Priser, and C. G. Erbaugh,



The Eversole Church

who were installed prior to that date; C. G. Priser, ordained in 1927; Fred E. Woodie, in 1932; Harry Bowser, in 1942; and James W. Simmons, in 1944. C. G. Priser had been licensed by the church in 1928, Fred E. Woodie in 1933, and James W. Simmons in 1944. John Martin was licensed in 1951 and ordained a minister in 1952.

Elders John C. Bright, George Erbaugh, John Bowman, S. A. Blessing, and Noah Erbaugh were among those who at some time resided here. Elder H. C. Bowser withdrew to the Old Orders in 1952.

The Eversole Sunday school began the third decade of this century with an enrollment of eighty-nine. C. G. Erbaugh seems to have been the superintendent then and was perhaps followed by Russell Landis. Roy Priser directed the school



from 1925 to 1938; Curtis Shock from 1938 to 1940; Roy Peters from 1940 to 1942. Then a sister, Anna Landis, became superintendent and had charge until 1950, when George Noffsinger took over.

It was noted above that Thomas Dillon and Harvey Landis were deacons as the former history closed. Since then ten deacons have been installed: Harry Bowser and Wilbur Shank in 1924; Orbin Lenz and Earl Smith in 1927; Quinter Musselman and Crosby Simmons in 1935; Harvey Hull and Earl Miller about 1938; and Jesse Bowser and Roy Peters in 1948.

The Eversole church was host to the Women's Work winter conference in 1950, and to one section of the missionary rally in the winter of 1953. The district conference of 1921 was held here, and the midwinter youth conference of 1945.

J. Homer Bright, son of John Calvin Bright, who was for many years a missionary to China, was a native son of Eversole. C. G. Erbaugh was for many years on the Mission Board of Southern Ohio and on the Ministerial Board several terms. George and Ruth (Erbaugh) Noffsinger and Naomi Erbaugh (now Mrs. Paul Kinsel) each served the district as a camp director at Sugar Grove. Pastor J. Oliver Dearing was a member of the newly formed District Board.

Brother Dearing came to the church from Southern Illinois as its first full-time pastor in 1945. He was succeeded in 1954 by Kenneth Hartman, the present pastor. There is splendid co-operation and Eversole is growing. The latest reported membership is two hundred thirty-five.

The need of a parsonage owned by the church was soon apparent. The move to build one was begun in 1947 with the appointment of a committee to study plans and bring an estimate of cost. In 1950 the church bought three-fourths acre of land adjacent to the church grounds on the east and in 1952 started to build on the edge of the old church foundation. The parsonage is of brick veneer, with a basement under the entire house and a breezeway connecting it with a garage. Plans were drawn by Roscoe Inman of Bradford. There was much volunteer labor done by the men of the church which reduced the cost in dollars considerably. With this splendid



new, very modern parsonage, this church joins the large number of churches of the district who can be proud of their recently erected parsonages. And Eversole is doing splendidly in other lines of church work also.

### FLAT CREEK

Credit for establishing work at Flat Creek, Kentucky, eighteen miles southeast of Manchester, in the southeastern part of the state, belongs to Elder Manly Deeter of Northern Indiana. In 1942 he came down into this territory and established a mission, entirely on his own. It proved to be a splendid venture in Kingdom work, and he remained until the work was firmly established.

In 1943 the General Mission Board asked the District of Southern Ohio to assume supervision of the work here with F. C. Rohrer in charge of the local program. The members were organized into the Flat Creek Church of the Brethren on October 31, 1943, with Brother Deeter elder-in-charge and F. C. Rohrer pastor. Each continued in this capacity until 1949.

The erection of a house of worship was begun in May of 1944. The building was dedicated on May 6, 1945, since which time regular services have been held here besides this church becoming the center from which other points of interest were developed in the area. These include Elisha's Creek, where a Sunday school was opened in January of 1944 and where a building was purchased and dedicated in May of 1948. Also, Spring Creek, with a school opened in 1943, and Middle Flat Creek, where a Sunday school was begun in the summer of 1944. In 1949 meetings were held at Mud Lick, six miles away. In May of 1949 the community about Mud Lick requested that a church structure be erected. Land was purchased and a building was constructed, so designed that it could first be used as a dwelling for the workers there. It was completed in November and a Sunday school of some twenty-two pupils was organized. In 1952 the building at Elisha's Creek was remodeled with the help of local people and

of volunteers from the district. Brother G. M. Sizemore was placed in charge of the preaching. The work was only fairly under way at Flat Creek when in June of 1947 a flash flood



The Flat Creek Church

hit the community and destroyed several homes and a school building. A truckload of clothing and food was brought in from the Brethren Service Commission and the Men's Work of Northern Indiana for relief of the unfortunate. Volunteer workers also came in to help rebuild some of the residences.

Brother and Sister F. C. Rohrer closed their work here as of September 1, 1951, and Brother and Sister Allen Weldy of Elkhart, Indiana, were called to take over. They continue their efficient leadership as this is being written. By this time the membership had grown to a total of eighty-six, the outposts included—Elisha's Creek, Middle Flat Creek, Mud Lick, Spring Creek, and Sugar Creek. The farthest outpost, Mud Lick, is about six miles from the center church. F. C. Rohrer, who moved into Tennessee, was retained as elder of the church.





The Elisha's Creek Church



The Mud Lick Church



For a while Harlan and Joan Sizemore had charge of the Mud Creek work, until they moved to Indiana in May of 1952. Then Brother and Sister Butler Sizemore took over on a part-time basis. He had been elected to the ministry in 1951 while attending Bethany Biblical Seminary. The average Sunday-school attendance at the five points is about one hundred fifty and the total church membership is ninety-nine. In the period since beginning the work here a total of twelve different Brethren Volunteer Service workers have aided in the mission. In 1952 a move was begun to erect a building at Mud Lick; this was completed and dedicated the next year. Five or six vacation Bible schools are held each year in the community. Weekday Bible teaching is also featured in from four to six public schools each year.

F. C. Rohrer was succeeded as elder by C. G. Erbaugh, of New Lebanon, Ohio, who is in charge at present at the request of the Commission on Ministry, Missions and Church Extension of the district.

Installations as of record include: F. C. Rohrer installed into the full ministry in 1949; Hiram and Clara Bowling installed as permanent deacons in 1948; Harlan Sizemore licensed to preach in 1947 and 1948; Walter and Dealie Garrison, Forest and Evelyn Bowling; and Bernard and Docia Sizemore installed as permanent deacons in 1952.

The record of Sunday-school superintendents at the different points reveals the following: Flat Creek—F. C. Rohrer, 1943-45; H. S. Bowling, 1945-46; G. M. Sizemore, 1946-48; Forest Bowling, 1948-49; Bernard Sizemore, 1949-50; Forest Bowling, 1950-51; Jeanette Bowling, 1951—; Elisha's Creek—Mareta Shrider and Ethel Adams, 1944-45; Mareta Shrider, 1945-48; Dealie Garrison, 1948—; Middle Flat Creek—Mareta Shrider, 1946-47; Iva Frantz, 1947-48; Mareta Shrider, 1948—; Spring Creek—F. C. Rohrer, 1943-47; Mrs. F. C. Rohrer, 1947-48; Walter Mullins, 1948—.

There is an active women's work organization, as well as a CBYF and an active club of intermediate girls.

The improvement of the properties has been rather extensive, including re-siding, wiring, planting an orchard, fencing, and constructing additional rooms. What appears to



need to be done soon finds its realization, for the members have a mind to work—together. The construction of a guest house is the next venture.

### FORT MCKINLEY

Lower Stillwater, one of the four congregations formed out of Lower Miami by the "Virginia Committee," was parent to Fort McKinley. It seems that a house had been built in about 1857 (not on the present location) which burned down before the first service could be held in it. It was then that a new location was sought, which was that of the present Fort McKinley church. The date of dedication is obscure. The deed for the property is dated April 17, 1860. This was known as the "lower house" of Lower Stillwater, the "upper house" being where the Happy Corner church now stands.

Worship was conducted here by the parent church until 1911, when a separate organization was formed, to be known as Fort McKinley. The number of charter members is not recorded. Alfred Klepinger became the first elder-in-charge.

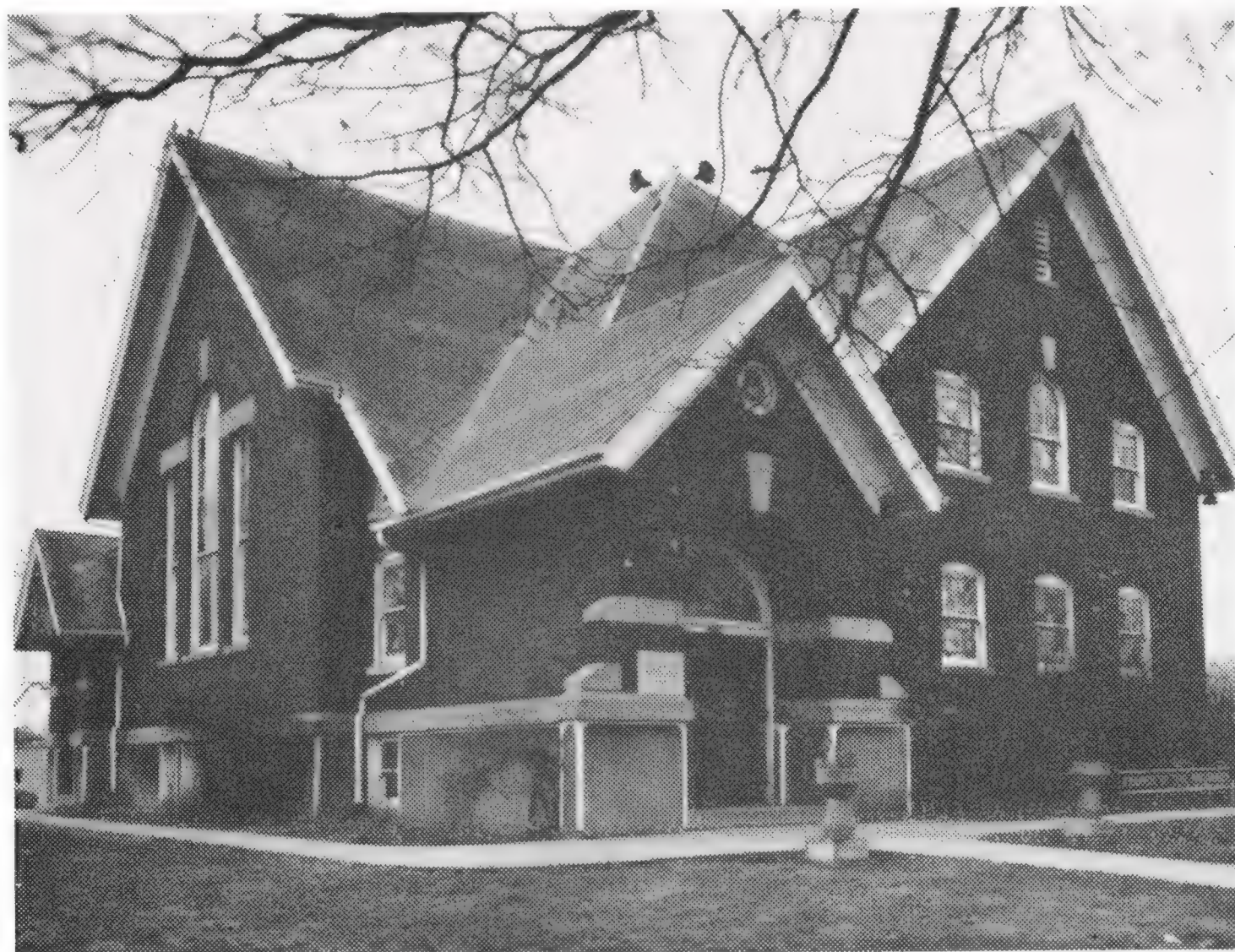
Two years after the organization of the Fort McKinley church the original structure was razed and a large brick church erected in its place. The cost was \$14,000. This, with changes and improvements, is the present house of worship.

We note that as the former history closed the church had one hundred forty-five members and an average Sunday-school attendance of eighty-four. D. M. Garver was in charge as elder.

In 1922 H. W. Holler was made elder of the church; he presided until 1925. Then E. S. Petry was elder for a year. D. R. Murray, the pastor then, served a few months. The District Ministerial Board directed until 1929, N. B. Wine acting for the board part of the time. C. F. McKee was the elder from 1930 until 1945. When Brother McKee became ill, Daniel Weimer was put in charge and was made regular elder-in-charge, beginning in October 1945, after Brother McKee's death. He is still in charge.

Fort McKinley began with a regular pastor in 1923, when





The Fort McKinley Church

D. R. Murray was called. He served the church until June 1928. C. F. McKee, of Covington, was called in September 1929, and pastored the church continuously until 1945. In September 1945 Philip Lauver of Bethany Seminary was called; he remained until he answered the call to Greenville in 1952. Fort McKinley then called Walter Bowman, of Illinois, to be its pastor beginning September 1, 1952. He is the present pastor.

Other ministers who have resided in this congregation include: John Hershey, who moved to Lititz, Pennsylvania, in 1937; Obed Hovatter, who moved to Troy in 1926; R. E. Helstern, who was licensed here in 1934, installed in 1935, and moved to Brookville in 1942; H. E. Helstern, who was licensed at Fort McKinley in 1933, installed in 1936, and moved to West Milton in 1937; E. S. Petry, who was ordained an elder in 1925 and later moved to Hamilton. W. J. Keller also was ordained an elder in 1925. Ivan Eikenberry was licensed here, moving to Eaton and later becoming a missionary to Nigeria. Morris Beeghley was ordained a minister in August 1953; he is at present a student in Bethany Seminary. D. C. Stutsman was an elder in this church but in 1928 transferred his



membership to the Baptist denomination. H. W. Holler was ordained an elder in 1921, D. R. Murray in 1926, and Dan Weimer in 1934.

Aaron Warner and Andrew Smith were installed as deacons in 1921; C. A. Beeghley and H. E. Helstern in 1924; Ira Inman, E. R. Bowman, and Chester G. Cox in 1937; T. S. Eikenberry and Arthur Myers in 1948. Leonard Landis and Galen Paul were elected in 1949. W. C. Baker, Hubert Mohler, Homer L. Royer, and Harold Ullery also lived here as deacons for a while, later moving away. Samuel Bowser, a deacon also, died in 1953.

The Sunday-school superintendents in succession have been H. W. Holler, W. C. Baker, H. E. Helstern, T. S. Eikenberry, W. C. Baker, T. S. Eikenberry, W. C. Baker, T. S. Eikenberry, Dan Weimer, Homer L. Royer, Dan Weimer, and Leonard Landis.

In 1947 the basement of the church was remodeled, providing worship space and classrooms for the primary department, and a nursery room. Further expansion is in the planning stage.

The church has been host to various district gatherings, including Women's Work meetings and ministerial meetings.

W. C. Baker, while living here, was the district treasurer for several years. Mrs. T. S. Eikenberry was on the District Cabinet of Women's Work. Lois Paul was an assistant in Camp Sugar Grove. Mildred Etter was the director of children's work for the district and is now the administrative assistant in the office of the Christian Education Commission of the General Brotherhood Board, Elgin, Illinois. Robert Duvall has been active in District Men's Work. Philip Lauver was the district secretary for several years while pastor here. The pastor, Walter Bowman, is a member of the District Board.

In 1949 Fort McKinley purchased a property at 5509 Salem Avenue for a parsonage. It was dedicated for this purpose on September 25 with N. B. Wine as the speaker.

With one hundred forty-five members at the beginning of the period of this history, the Fort McKinley church now numbers two hundred sixty-nine members, a gain of over one hundred.

## GRATIS

The Upper Twin congregation, with rather undescribed boundaries, was known to have included, however, the Gratis territory. This really dates the Gratis history back into the early decades of the nineteenth century, when families of Brethren, who had moved in from far and near, held services in the home of Samuel Teal. This group was organized at the Twin church in 1809. The territory included most of Preble County. But in 1830 this church was divided into Upper Twin and Lower Twin, with irregular lines, as indicated above.

For several decades services were held in the homes of members. Then in 1860 a house was built at Sugar Hill, one-half mile east of West Alexandria. Another was erected at Wheatville in 1862. Still another went up at Beech Grove in 1870. Strangely enough, not one of these became a permanent meeting place. The 1920 history of Southern Ohio relates: "Upper Twin church has now one hundred and eighty members and an average attendance of thirty-nine at the Gratis Sunday school and forty-five at the Wheatville Sunday school."

Just when this Sunday school was organized at Gratis is not known. But in 1912 the Reformed church building in Gratis was purchased and remodeled, and was dedicated in June of that year. Charles L. Flory gave the dedicatory sermon. Wheatville, south of Gratis, seems to have been abandoned as Gratis became active.

Aaron Brubaker, who was born in Preble County in 1854, was elder of Twin Creek from 1913 on, and, of course, was thus elder of Gratis when it was organized. He had been ordained in 1905. He served until his death in 1934.

The minutes of the 1938 Southern Ohio district conference contain this request and answer:

We, the Upper Twin congregation, in council assembled, February 25, 1938, unanimously agreed to divide the congregation into two separate congregations, probably to be known as Eaton and Gratis. We therefore petition district conference of 1938 to approve the action of this church.

Joseph H. Lowman, clerk

Answer of District Meeting: Request granted.



N. B. Wine was elder of Upper Twin and was in charge of both Eaton and Gratis, but was succeeded by William Deaton at Gratis in 1940. Brother Deaton was the elder until 1946. John Good became elder in that year and continued until 1950. Frank Eby was elected for 1951, and was followed by Lester Fike.



The Gratis Church

Ministers who have lived in the church, or served from their homes elsewhere, include A. G. Crosswhite, Ira Blocher, B. F. Petry, Chester Petry, Wilmer Petry, B. W. Timmons, Edgar Schooley, Otto Laursen, Clarence Priser, Henry Mankey, Russell Helstern, Lawrence Garst, John Garst, William Deaton, Robert Tully, John Hurst, and Frank Eby. Clarence Priser was part-time pastor until September 1954, when Leonard Lutz became the minister.

Deacons known to have served were: Wesley Suman, Harvey Brubaker, Cyrus Kiracofe, Joseph H. Lowman, Willard Shafer, M. L. Kiracofe, and Albert Kiracofe.

Sunday-school superintendents, in order, were Wesley



Suman, Harvey Brubaker, M. L. Kiracofe, James H. Lohman, Cyrus Kiracofe, Willard Shafer, and Albert Kiracofe.

It is not on record how many charter members there were in the Gratis church. How the one hundred eighty members of Upper Twin were divided or assigned seems also not to be known. But the Gratis membership seemed to fluctuate greatly through the years. It may have reached one hundred fifty at times. There is at present a membership of one hundred ten. But the work shows promise and it is believed that the church will grow in size. The church now has a resident pastor, Brother Leonard Lutz, having purchased in 1948 a parsonage adjoining the church.

The church edifice was fully remodeled in 1928 into a most convenient house of worship. The rededication was in February 1929.

Kathryn Kiracofe, a member of the Gratis church, is in India as a missionary under the General Brotherhood Board.

In 1932 the one-hundredth anniversary of the Upper Twin church was observed.

The church has been host to the Women's Work conference and a Children's Workers' conference.

## GREENVILLE

Members who had previously located in Greenville became interested in services in the city along in the eighties. In 1884 Landon West held a meeting in a "borrowed" church. Then they began to hold regular services in a schoolhouse. After an interim, more members having moved in, services were resumed, being held in a home.

In 1899 the Southern Ohio Mission Board made Greenville a mission church. Services were held in the city hall and Sunday school was held in homes. The Mission Board put David Hollinger in charge of the work in 1900. Funds were raised and a church was built on Central Avenue; it was dedicated in 1901. There were now twenty members.

The congregation grew and in January 1906 the group was organized, the Mission Board giving the work over to the



local members. Preaching was now done by the resident ministers. David Hollinger and A. H. Weimer did much of it. Revivals were held and the membership increased.

In 1911 the church was remodeled, providing Sunday-school rooms, a baptistry, and a gallery. Just before the close of the 1920 history, A. H. Weimer was elected pastor and B. F. Sharp was made presiding elder. The membership had increased to two hundred and the average Sunday-school attendance was one hundred seventeen.

A. H. Weimer remained as pastor until 1922; then B. F. Sharp followed, continuing until 1927. In September 1927 X. L. Coppock took charge, remaining until 1930. Paul E. Wingerd followed him in September of that year, serving two years. Then there was an interim without a pastor. Early in 1934 G. O. Stutsman was called; he was with the Greenville church until September 1939. Then there was another interim without pastoral leadership. In September 1940 G. L. Wine, of the Covington church, was called; he served as pastor until 1946. He was followed in September of that year by C. G. Hesse, from Bridgewater, Virginia. Brother Hesse resigned as of September 1, 1952, and was succeeded by Philip Lauver, who is the present pastor.

With B. F. Sharp presiding at the beginning of the period of this history, the elders-in-charge since then, in succession, have been X. L. Coppock, D. G. Berkebile, G. O. Stutsman, G. L. Wine, C. G. Hesse, and Ray O. Shank.

The church licensed James Renz in 1939 and installed him into the ministry in 1940. Darrell Fryman was licensed in 1941 and ordained a minister in 1946. Obed Hovatter was ordained into the full ministry in 1921.

Other ministers who resided in the congregation during this time include Catherine Hollinger, Abraham Brumbaugh, A. D. Coate, I. J. Rosenberger, Jonas Royer, Calvin Fryman, Willis Kreider, Glen Moyer, and I. G. Blocher. All these were elders except Catherine Hollinger and Jonas Royer. Willis Kreider and Calvin Fryman were ordained in 1925.

Since 1920 the Greenville church has elected deacons as follows: Kenneth Blocher, Russel Klepinger, Phares Fourman, and John Weimer in 1932; V. S. Cassel and John Oliver in



1943; Ralph Vanderburg in 1947; Lavon Martin and Lowell Rife in 1951.

For Sunday-school superintendents the church has had John Weimer, Lucy Wandle, Kenneth Blocher, Russel Klepinger, V. S. Cassel, Ira Mikesell, John Oliver, Ralph Vanderburg, Lowell Rife, and Emmert Bright, each serving from one to twelve years. The present superintendent is Ralph Vanderburg.



The Greenville Church

The church purchased a parsonage across the street from the church in 1940, but in 1948 sold this and purchased the David Hollinger home just north of the church.

In 1945 art glass windows were installed in the church and in 1951 an electric organ was purchased. The fiftieth anniversary was celebrated in 1951.

The church has given heifers for relief and has sent canned food, clothing, and other material aid for the distressed in Europe.

The church is in the process of being remodeled at the present time.



Greenville was host to the midwinter youth conference of 1938-39.

Virgil Cassel is a member of the Brethren Home Board. John Oliver serves on the Southern Ohio Historical Committee. Donald Stutsman, Paul Royer, Marjorie Blocher, and Phares Fourman all have been engaged in camp activities at Sugar Grove. Ira Blocher headed up the first Heifer Project Committee in Southern Ohio. The pastor, Philip Lauver, is the secretary of the District Board.

It should be noted that the Brethren Home is located within this congregation and workers in the Home have been active in the church while the church in turn has rendered great service to the Home through the years.

The present recorded membership of the Greenville church is three hundred ninety.

## HAMILTON

The Hamilton church had its origin in the autumn of 1924, when Walter Hawke, who was then ministering to the Middletown church, knowing of a few members in Hamilton held a meeting in the home of Jesse Messmore on Fifth Street. At this service three Hamilton families, who were members, were present. The attendance totaled thirty.

A second meeting was held in this home, and the Odd Fellows hall, on Main Street, was used for a few weeks. Then the Church of God, on Heaton Street, was rented Sunday afternoons for Sunday school and preaching and Thursday evenings for a worship service.

The need being felt for a permanent place of worship, in July of 1925 a lot was secured on the corner of North E Street and Webster Avenue and a tabernacle, thirty-eight by fifty feet in size, was erected, seating two hundred fifty. It was dedicated August 9, 1925, Elder D. G. Berkebile giving the sermon. There were now twenty-seven members living in Hamilton. In a meeting following the dedication six more were received into the church.

Following the dedication of the tabernacle, services were held regularly every Sunday with a midweek service on

Thursday. The Sunday school in 1925 averaged twenty-eight in attendance and by the close of that year the church membership totaled forty-four. Walter Hawke did most of the preaching until the dedication of the tabernacle, after which Obed Hovatter, who had come here from Greenville, took over. Other ministers from the district assisted occasionally.

The Hamilton people were encouraged by special speakers, representing various Brotherhood interests: Elgin Moyer, from Bethany Seminary; J. M. Henry, from Virginia; and Frank Crumpacker, returned missionary to China.



The Hamilton Church

While Albert Smith, pastor at Cincinnati, was with the Hamilton people in a meeting in February 1926, interest in organizing the church came to a focus; this was accomplished on February 26. John W. Fidler was chosen presiding elder. He was followed in turn by Walter Hawke, C. H. Petry, Elmer Petry, J. H. Eidemiller, H. M. Coppock, Ray O. Shank, John H. Good, and George Phillips, the elder at present.

Pastors serving Hamilton have been, in order, Obed Hovatter, Henry Mankey, Wilmer Petry, Elmer Petry, H. M.



Coppock, David Hollinger, E. S. Petry (four years), Walter Hawke (seven years), C. W. Warstler, Ira Oren, Orion Erbaugh (two years), H. Jesse Baker, Lloyd Stauffer (three years). Orion Erbaugh died suddenly in 1944, while pastor here, and his widow, Omy Erbaugh, carried on the work, with the assistance of nonresident ministers, until 1947. The Erbaughs were the first to occupy the parsonage at 706 Webster Avenue. In September 1952, McKinley Coffman came from Maryland to serve the Hamilton and Middletown churches in a joint pastorate.

The tabernacle was replaced in 1937 with a new church building, which was dedicated on November 21, with C. D. Bonsack giving the dedicatory address. The district contributed \$10,822.04 toward the construction. The actual cost was \$10,567.04.

The records show that Howard Erbaugh was licensed by the church in 1947 and ordained to the ministry in 1948. Marion Petry was licensed in 1954. Deacons installed include Noah Martin in 1926, and Maurice Davis, Grover Stivers, Sr., and Lester Petry in 1950.

The Sunday-school superintendents have been in order, Charles Fox, Alonzo Watt, Hazel Hubbard, Alonzo Watt, Mrs. E. S. Petry, Edgar Schooley, Mrs. E. S. Petry, Wayne Maddox, Lester Petry, Kermit Foster, Floyd Maurer, Everett Hoy, and Paul Haddix.

The church now numbers ninety-one, and, Hamilton being a promising industrial center, it is expected that the church will continue to grow.

## HAPPY CORNER

We must go back to 1811 for the earliest records of the Happy Corner (Lower Stillwater) church. In that year the "Virginia Committee" requested by the Lower Miami church divided its territory into four divisions: Lower Miami, Lower Stillwater, Bear Creek, and Wolf Creek. It originally included the territory north of the Dayton and Western Turnpike and east of the Union Road. Later the boundaries were changed



with the Pennsylvania Railroad, Gettysburg Avenue, and the Miami River proscribing its territory.

The first meetinghouse, which was the first in the Miami Valley, was of logs. It was erected in 1818 on the Salem Pike,



The Happy Corner Church

east and north of the present structure, at the corner of the Union Road and the Salem Pike. Later a frame house was built about a mile east of the log building which served until 1857. Then a brick structure replaced this frame house, but it was never actually used for it burned before being completed. In 1853 Jacob Spitler deeded three-fourths acre as a new site. A brick house of worship was erected here and dedicated probably about 1857. This brick church blew down in 1875 and a frame house (the present one) was built the same year. A basement was added in 1896, a balcony later, and a vestibule and a baptistry in 1937. In 1949 the basement was rebuilt, toilets provided, and a kitchen added. It is interesting to note that at first this building included rooms at one end which provided residence for a janitor and his family. Also two entrances, one for women and the other for men.



The change of the name of the church from Lower Stillwater to Happy Corner roots back into a tradition relating that a group of schoolgirls, in the schoolyard at this corner, greeted a passer-by with "This is a happy corner." Subsequently, in a Dayton paper, news notes from this section were always headed "Happy Corner." Someone put that name on a horse trough standing along the road in front of the church. That was enough: "Happy Corner" it became, the name being officially adopted by authority of district conference in 1943.

At the turn of the third decade of the twentieth century we find L. A. Bookwalter ministering as elder of the church, the records showing that he served from 1915 to 1927. He was followed by Hugh Cloppert, from 1927 to 1936; then Ira Oren assumed the oversight, continuing at the present time. Ministers and elders residing in the congregation subsequent to 1920 include Joseph Free, 1917, Brethren in Christ minister; Harlan Brooks, 1918-23; Jesse Bookwalter, 1918-52; Benjamin A. Schoeppner, 1934-36; Bertrand Von De Augedeon, 1932; Alva Oren, 1912-45; Roy Engle, 1924-43; Albertus Bucklew, 1910-47; Lon Karns, 1939-54; Paul Bowman, 1941-45.

Harlan Brooks left this congregation to become a missionary to India. L. A. Bookwalter, Hugh Cloppert, and Ira Oren have been active in the larger work of the district on boards and committees. Paul Bowman was for some years the fieldman for Manchester College and at present is the director of admissions. A young layman, Lyle Lambert, has been in Brethren Volunteer Service on the Brethren Service farm at Falfurrias, Texas.

Happy Corner has advanced the following to the eldership since 1920: Hugh Cloppert, 1920; Jesse Bookwalter, 1933; Ira Oren and Roy Engle, 1935; Lon Karns, 1944. Paul S. Bowman was ordained a minister in 1942. The church had previously called these latter four to the ministry and licensed them, also including Benjamin A. Schoeppner.

The church has been host to many district-wide gatherings, including the mission rally in 1943 and the district meeting in 1941. Its doors were opened to special meetings of the

Old Order Conference in 1944. A special rural life meeting was held in January of 1945.

An incomplete list of the Sunday-school superintendents includes Horace Mohler, Oscar Roberts, Raymond Ebright, Lowell Butterbaugh, Herbert Ullery, Frank Royer, and Ora Bowman.

Deacons installed since 1920 are: George Crooks, 1930; Ora Bowman, 1926; Robert Ulrich, 1936; Russell Lambert, 1936; and Huber Blackburn, 1943.

In 1952 Clyde Mulligan was called to be the full-time pastor of the congregation. The church has purchased land for a parsonage adjoining the church property on the west. A group of over forty members, including Elder Lon Karns, left this church to form a Grace Brethren congregation in 1954.

The Sunday-school attendance is large; the membership is one hundred ninety at this writing.

### HARRIS CREEK

The old Stillwater congregation included Covington, Pleasant Hill, and Harris Creek. In 1846 a house was built at Harris Creek, then called Upper Stillwater. It became officially Harris Creek in 1914. The actual division of the territory took place in 1854; so this is the date of the origin of this congregation. Joseph Risser was the first elder. We have no record of the number of charter members.

In 1868 a new brick church house was built. It was fifty by eighty feet in size. This was remodeled in 1908, with Sunday-school rooms added.

In 1865 the Oakland church was formed out of Harris Creek. In 1917 the Bradford church was carved out of this congregation.

By the close of 1920 the church had one hundred eighty members and a Sunday-school attendance of one hundred twelve. D. G. Berkebile had been called as pastor in 1918, and the elder-in-charge was Charles L. Flory. Ministers in the congregation, besides D. G. Berkebile, the pastor, were John Eikenberry and William Buckley. The deacons were



John Mummert, Emanuel Flory, Newton Bookwalter, Roy Wagoner, Henry Ballinger, Roy Hollinger, Rudy Hollopeter, Harmon Miller, Harley Hoover, and John Detrick.

D. G. Berkebile continued as pastor until 1936, completing over eighteen years in this one church. In that year Harris Creek and Bradford joined under one pastor with G. E. Weaver shepherding the two churches. He had been called from Johnstown, Pennsylvania. In 1940 the joint program was abandoned; Theodore Eley of Union City became the pastor of Harris Creek and G. E. Weaver continued at Bradford. After Theodore Eley passed away in 1945, H. H. Helman filled in for two months. Then Harold E. Helstern of Brookville was called and he continues to minister to the Harris Creek congregation at this time.

Charles L. Flory continued as elder of this congregation until 1927. He was succeeded by D. G. Berkebile in that year; he in turn was followed in 1936 by Ray O. Shank, who presided until 1939. G. L. Wine was elder-in-charge from 1939 to 1941. From 1941 to 1943 Theodore Eley was both pastor and elder. Then Ray O. Shank served again from 1943 to 1945. In 1945 Moyne Landis was invited to become the elder. He was succeeded in 1953 by Philip H. Lauver.

In 1951 John Eikenberry transferred to the Bradford church, where he resided.

Ernest Detrick was licensed to preach in 1939 at Harris Creek; he was installed later at Oakland.

Albert Warner and Jesse M. Wise were elected deacons in 1926. In 1947 Galen Detrick and Myron Loxley were elected and in 1949 they were installed. Thus the present deacon board consists of Roy Hollinger, called in 1914, Harley Hoover, called in 1919, and the four named above.

The Sunday school here dates back to 1885, when a "summer" school was begun. After five years a year-around school was held. Roy Wagoner was the superintendent as the period of this history began. Those who followed, in order, were John Eikenberry, Vicie Cassel, Dale Berkebile, Fhern Cassel, Dale Berkebile, Vicie Cassel, Etoile Sargent, Myron Loxley, Etoile Sargent, Wilbur Erbaugh, and Myron Loxley.



There is a record of twenty-five different ministers having held evangelistic meetings at Harris Creek since 1920.

A centennial was held in August of 1946, with M. J. Brougher speaking on the centennial program and at a week



The Harris Creek Church

of special meetings. Homecomings were held in 1920, 1927, and 1946.

The church structure erected in 1846 was replaced in 1868, as noted above; it was remodeled in 1908, and further improvements, mostly in modernizing the basement, have just been completed.

This church was host to the District Children's Workers' Conference in 1947.

The women's work is fully organized and active, as is also men's work. Vacation Bible schools have been held annually since 1920, in later years jointly in a community school.

Young people of Harris Creek who have served on the District Youth Cabinet include Lois Eikenberry (Miller), Martha Eley (Detrick), and Galen Hoover.



Etoile Sargent has been a member of the District Women's Work Cabinet, as well as serving several years as a camp director. She became the editor of the *Southern Ohio Herald* in 1952 and continued this work until 1954. Miriam Hollinger and Janice McBride have also helped at Camp Sugar Grove. Vicie Cassel (Hollinger) was a camp director.

D. G. Berkebile served on the Mission Board; John Eikenberry as district Sunday-school secretary and lately on the Historical Committee responsible for the completion of this history.

Harris Creek now numbers one hundred two on the membership list and is carrying on an active program.

### LOWER MIAMI

Lower Miami is distinctly a parent church. While perhaps not the earliest of Brethren congregations in Southern Ohio, it was at least a close second. With its organization in 1805, it was only six years later that its territory was cut into four divisions by the "Virginia Committee." These were later divided to form the bases for eleven churches. Quite a family from one parent! The story is well told in the 1920 history.

The first church building was erected on the present site in 1845 and then replaced in 1871 by the building which now constitutes the basic part of the present plant. It had a basement and cost \$3,500. The ground was donated for the first building by Samuel Noffsinger.

In 1879 the first Sunday school was organized. Church services were held every two weeks at first and, beginning in 1911, every Sunday. There seemed to be a rule that the oldest elder was in charge until he moved away or was deceased. This rule obtained until 1913, when elections began to be held. The membership was a farmer membership. There were one hundred twenty-five members at the time of the previous history. J. O. Garst was the elder-in-charge. D. M. Garver succeeded him, however, in 1920, residing in the congregation.

Since 1920 many changes have taken place. From a rural church then, Lower Miami is now a suburban church. Then



most of the farms about her were member owned. Now not so. City worker and farmer worship together. Names of early leaders are carried still by descendants.



The Lower Miami Church

In the first decade or so following 1920 the eldership was mostly alternated between J. O. Garst and Jesse Noffsinger. In 1940 John Garst became elder and continued in that office until 1952, when he resigned. Paul W. Kinsel was then elected and still has charge.

Many of the Lower Miami young people have attended Manchester College. Some of them were then considered good ministerial prospects and so were licensed and then installed.

The preaching was mostly done by the local ministers until 1950, when a pastor was called from without. The latter years previous to this found John M. Garst doing much of the preaching. Jesse Garst had been designated pastor during 1926-27.

In September 1950 Arthur Keim came to Lower Miami as full-time pastor. Because of his wife's health he resigned after one year. The church then called Edward Angeny, of



Muncie, Indiana, who ministers to the congregation at the present time.

The church purchased a parsonage across the road from the church and had a dedication service in the fall of 1951.

The church building erected in 1871 was remodeled in 1938. The interior was completely rearranged, providing Sunday-school rooms and modern conveniences.

Since 1920, this church has licensed five ministers: Lawrence Garst, 1927; Paul Noffsinger, 1932; Ross Noffsinger, 1939; Delmar Moyer, 1942; and A. Wayne Snook, 1954. Of these, Lawrence Garst was ordained a minister in 1928 and an elder in 1936. Paul Noffsinger was ordained a minister in 1934 and Ross Noffsinger in 1940. John Kneisly was ordained to the eldership in 1940.

The elders-in-charge, as indicated above, were D. M. Garver, Jesse Noffsinger, J. O. Garst (mostly alternating), John M. Garst, and Paul Kinsel.

Deacons installed since 1920 have been: Charles C. Stebbins and Charles Laprad, 1927; Orville Foust and Roy Stebbins, 1942; Ray Noffsinger and Milton Medlar, 1952.

The Sunday-school superintendents in succession were: E. B. Ruble, Roy Stebbins, Lawrence Garst, Walter Stebbins, Raymond Ebright, Blanche Furrey, Orville Foust, and Robert West.

Charles Stebbins, of Lower Miami, was for several years the treasurer for the District of Southern Ohio. Richard Foust has been in Brethren Service in Europe.

The present membership of the congregation is two hundred forty-three.

The church is preparing appropriate services to commemorate its sesquicentennial in 1955.

### MACK MEMORIAL

The Mack Memorial church was formerly called the West Dayton church. The origin of this congregation dates back to February 1889 when thirty-two members of surrounding churches asked for a separate organization. The actual



organization occurred in April 1889, with forty-four charter members. Francis Cotterman became the first elder. There were no regular services until a church could be built. A committee was almost immediately appointed to find a location. The corner of West Fourth and College streets was selected and plans were laid to build at once. A church forty by fifty-five feet was erected here and was dedicated September 15, 1889, with Elder John Smith giving the dedicatory sermon.

In this same month a Sunday school was organized. In 1918 an addition to the building for better Sunday-school facilities was completed and dedicated. Brother J. H. Cassady was the dedicatory speaker. In 1901 the Sunday school had



The Mack Memorial Church

an average attendance of one hundred one; in 1919 it was one hundred thirty-one; in 1938 it was two hundred twenty-eight.

This location and structure served the church until 1947, when it was sold to the Mt. Enon Baptist congregation. The members met then in the Longfellow school for five years,



or until September 28, 1952, at which time they began to worship in their new building located at 1725 Salem Avenue. It was dedicated as the Mack Memorial Church of the Brethren, under which name the church was incorporated in 1947. "West Dayton" had given way to "First Church of the Brethren" some years earlier, a name used by the church locally.

The new building on Salem Avenue was dedicated on October 12, 1952, with Brother V. F. Schwalm giving the dedicatory address. The cost was in excess of \$250,000, which includes church and furnishings, the cost of the lots, and a church parsonage relocated at 3732 West Hillcrest Avenue. It is one of the most beautiful, within and without, of the recently constructed churches of this district. Seating in excess of five hundred, it is forty by one hundred twelve feet in size. During the construction and completion of the new church John D. Long was pastor and Norman B. Wine elder.

The eldership of the church passed from Francis Cotterman, in 1897, to L. A. Bookwalter, who presided until 1904. There was a period when various elders were assigned to be in charge, then D. M. Garver became both pastor and elder in 1907. The next year he was followed by D. S. Filbrun, who served in the same capacity until 1912. D. H. Keller succeeded him the next year and continued until 1916. The church next called D. F. Warner, who presided until 1919, when W. C. Detrick was chosen pastor. At this time there were three hundred twelve members and the Sunday school averaged one hundred thirty-one in attendance.

At the beginning of the third decade of the twentieth century W. C. Detrick was the pastor and the eldership was in the hands of Dorsey Hodgden. Both continued until 1924, when G. A. Snider became elder and E. S. Coffman pastor. John Robinson became presiding elder in 1924, E. S. Coffman in 1926, and C. F. McKee in 1933. E. S. Coffman served as pastor until 1933, when he was succeeded by J. Perry Prather, who remained as leader until 1944. N. B. Wine had been elected elder in 1942 and still presides over the church. Until the calling of John D. Long in the fall of 1945, H. H. Helman acted as pastor in the interim. John D. Long remained until

January 1955 and will be succeeded by Earl M. Bowman of Lititz, Pennsylvania.

The church ordained E. S. Coffman to the eldership in 1926 and N. B. Wine in 1928. John Detrick, Allen Deeter, and Jesse Bowser were licensed to preach. Resident ministers since 1920, not otherwise mentioned, have been: Lawrence Weimer, Elmer Brumbaugh, Randolph Van Scoyk, and Lester Slaughter. John Detrick has served in China and Frances Landis in South America.

Deacons of the congregation who are deceased or have moved away include Charles Grove, Jesse Fuls, Charles Van Scoyk, Chester Cooper, and Lawrence Ridenour. Those now members include D. A. Porter, Vernon Medlar, H. B. Shellabarger, Dayton Brubaker, Willis Landis, Elmer Neff, Artie Smith, W. H. Gnagey, E. M. Fox, Cecil Petry, Lowell Erbaugh, Curtis Shock, Don Bookwalter, W. K. Groff, Robert Noffsinger, J. Edward Hershberger, Charles Dawson, Leroy Fish, Carl Griep, John Olwine, Cecil Rust, and Homer Wagner.

Harry McPherson was superintendent of the Sunday school at the beginning of the period of this history and served until 1924. Those in order since then have been: Norman Wine, W. C. Hampton, Elmer Neff, Willis Landis, E. M. Fox, H. B. Shellabarger, Robert J. Noffsinger, W. K. Groff, and John Olwine.

The following have been camp directors or teachers or on youth cabinets in the district: Inez Long, Phyllis Erbaugh, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Rust, Merrill Royer, Robert and Alma Noffsinger, W. K. and Sally Groff, Alice Yoder, Franklin Wallick, and J. E. Hershberger. W. K. Groff is a member of the Historical Committee of the district, and N. B. Wine is a trustee of Manchester College.

The church maintains a salaried staff consisting of the pastor, church secretary, financial secretary, adult choir director, children's choir director, organist, and custodian. C. W. Detrick has been the music leader for many years.

There is a creative activity hour for the children during the worship hour, a men's club, and women's work activity with five departments. The Sunday evening services are family centered.



The fiftieth anniversary was observed in 1939. The church adopted an impressive budget of \$33,833 for the year 1953-54. It lists a membership of five hundred thirty-two.

The brochure which was used at the dedication service on October 12, 1952, has these closing words: "These Dedication Services are only the beginning of a great forward-looking experience which shall unfold in our fellowship the reality of 'the Body of Christ.' "

### MARBLE FURNACE

Marble Furnace came out of the Brush Creek congregation, which comprised all of the Brethren in the southern counties. It was set apart in 1880. A house had already been built in 1877. The church never reached a substantial membership. At the close of the 1920 history there were fifteen members. Van B. Wright was ministering to them and J. O. Garst was their elder.

Van B. Wright shepherded the congregation until in



The Marble Furnace Church



December 1924. In 1925 Rolland Flory was named pastor. He remained until 1928. Part of this time he was also elder-in-charge. He was followed in the pastorate by Elmer Wagoner, who soon returned, however, to India as a missionary. In September of 1929 W. R. Swinger was made pastor, continuing until 1939. Paul Wright then served until 1943. In June 1944 Dale Gibboney came as a summer pastor. In September of that year Jacob and Mary Couser came as pastors. Mrs. Couser is a licensed minister. They continue to minister to the church at present.

The elders-in-charge here have generally been from the District Mission Board. J. O. Garst was followed by R. N. Leatherman. H. M. Coppock became elder in 1928. In June 1943 John H. Good took charge. He was succeeded by E. Friend Couser and then again John H. Good took the oversight. H. H. Helman is the present elder of the congregation.

In 1928 the congregation completed a remodeling and building project with a dedication on May 20. J. H. Eidemiller gave the address.

The congregation ordained Otto Laursen as elder in 1934. Jacob Couser was made an elder in 1950.

Homer Haines was licensed in 1922 and Paul Wright in 1940.

William Ramsey and Spencer Storer were elected deacons in 1922. Marion Headrich and Carl McGown were later elected.

With a membership of fifty-seven there seems to be a renewed interest in this, one of Southern Ohio's early fields.

## MAY HILL

May Hill was one of the churches carved out of Brush Creek. May Hill was made a separate branch in 1880. In that same year a building was erected. Through the early years various Brethren held meetings here. The results were mostly disappointing. At the time of the publishing of the former history J. O. Garst was the elder-in-charge and Van B. Wright was pastoring this and others of the southern churches.



Van B. Wright served thus until 1928, following which service H. C. Haines took over for two years. The Mission Board then secured the services of W. R. Swinger, who labored in this field until 1939. Paul Wright was then called; he



The May Hill Church

remained until 1943. There has been no pastoral service at May Hill since 1943. The members are all deceased. A homecoming is held once a year. Jacob Couser of Marble Furnace preaches for the friends and neighbors of the church occasionally.

The District Board is studying the situation to determine whether the building should be sold and May Hill declared nonexistent.

### MIDDLE DISTRICT

The Middle District territory was in the “middle,” between Hickory Grove and Salem, and so got its name. It comprises mostly Monroe Township, Miami County, but also extends south to include some of Montgomery County. The



first Brethren preaching in Monroe Township was undoubtedly done by Elder Phillip Younce, who came to Miami County in 1813 from North Carolina, being then a minister. His preaching had much to do with the establishment of the Brethren faith in the area including Darke and Miami counties. He was known to have preached regularly in the Presbyterian church in Nashville, which is within the Middle District territory. His son, George Younce, and his wife were charter members of Middle District.

Just which group was responsible for first beginning services in the locality of this church seems to be in obscurity. But previous to the organization of the church in 1876, services had been held in the "Old Union Church" in Ginghamburg. This continued to be the meeting place after the new congregation was formed. Samuel Coppock and Oliver F. Yount were ministers in this new territory. They shared the pulpit responsibilities and both were later ordained elders by the congregation.

The new organization began with sixty charter members. Growth at first was rather rapid. By 1884 there seemed to be one hundred twenty members. But by 1920 the membership declined to ninety. Many moved in but more moved out. The first communion of record was held in the Samuel Coppock barn in May 1877. At this communion occasion steps were begun to build a house of worship. The first church, located on the present site of the Middle District church, was dedicated in December 1877. This building was remodeled and improvements were made in December 1908, thirty-one years after its erection.

This congregation started the third decade of the twentieth century with ninety members, including four ministers, Elder J. P. Miller, Elder C. V. Coppock, H. M. Coppock, and Roy Karns. The Sunday-school attendance averaged forty.

The church building was remodeled again in 1937, more Sunday-school rooms, a new pulpit, and a baptistry being added. This building served until in December 1945. One Sunday while the congregation was assembling for worship, the church caught fire and burned. Only a few of the furnishings were saved.



Services were held in the Monroe Township hall until a new structure could be erected. After considering changing the location to Tipp City, it was finally decided to rebuild on the same location. A building committee of five members was elected: L. E. Davidson (chairman), Roger Clark, Verlynn McAdams, Ralph Brumbaugh, and Nevin Coppock. The cornerstone was laid on October 3, 1948, and dedication services were held on November 6, with Dr. Calvert N. Ellis preaching the dedicatory sermon. C. V. Coppock was pastor and elder at the time.



The Middle District Church

The building was planned by C. H. Deardorff, the Brethren church building counselor at Elgin. It is thirty-six by sixty-four feet in size, of buff brick, with art windows, including a large lighted window to the front. Much volunteer labor went into the construction, making the actual cost in dollars much less than its real value. It is rated a very beautiful building and has every modern church convenience. It is a proud achievement for the Middle District members.

In 1925 H. M. Coppock was ordained to the eldership. In 1939 Ralph W. Brumbaugh was licensed to the ministry and two years later he was installed.



Of deacons many more were called, including Marley Karns in 1924; Leonard Davidson and Ralph Brumbaugh in 1929; Oscar Roberts and Roger Clark in 1940; and Ralph Reeder in 1944. Joseph Karns, elected in 1903, served until 1943. Jesse Coy, elected in 1916, served until 1923. Other deacons moved into the congregation, namely, David Royer, J. F. Coy, and A. J. Weimer in 1923; Ora Diehl in 1926 (moved out and then back again in 1950); D. P. Groff (moved in in 1935).

J. P. Miller was in charge of Middle District, as elder, in 1920 and continued until 1923, when L. A. Bookwalter took over. H. M. Coppock followed, until 1937, when C. V. Coppock became both elder and pastor. At the resignation of Brother Coppock in 1951, to take up a pastorate in Indiana, Ray O. Shank became elder. He was succeeded in 1952 by H. H. Helman.

The resident ministers seem to have shared the pulpit responsibilities until, by action of the church, H. M. Coppock was made pastor. Not until 1926 was regular financial support given the pastor. In that year it was decided that the ministerial committee should take a public offering the last Sunday of each month for ministerial support. H. M. Coppock was succeeded by his brother, C. V. Coppock, as pastor in 1937; he continued until 1952, when he was followed by H. H. Helman, of New Carlisle. At the date of this writing the church is looking forward to the calling of a full-time pastor. A parsonage fund has been started.

Sunday-school superintendents, since 1920, in order, have been J. E. Coy, Walter Erbaugh, Marley Karns, Oscar Roberts, Nevin Coppock, Leonard Davidson, and Donald Kessler.

As recorded in the earlier history of Southern Ohio, O. C. Sollenberger and wife, Hazel Coppock Sollenberger, went from this congregation as missionaries to China in 1919. Three from Middle District have made trips abroad with cattle for relief: Maynard Coppock, Ralph Brumbaugh, and Paul Brumbaugh. Mary Coppock served in Brethren Volunteer Service in Kassel, Germany; Joan Macy in Denver, Colorado; and Emerson Davidson in Pahokee, Florida, and Chicago, Illinois.

The church was one of the first to send heifers for relief,



and also sent much grain, food, and clothing. The Men's Work of Southern Ohio had its birth at Middle District as a Brethren's Aid Society in 1923.

A vacation Bible school is held each summer. The CBYF is unusually active. The women's work has completed many projects.

This church was host to the Southern Ohio ministers' conference in 1940, and since then to other district gatherings.

H. M. Coppock was for some time a member of the Mission Board of Southern Ohio and served on Standing Committee. C. V. Coppock was a member of the Ministerial Board. Marley Karns was a member of the District Board of Christian Education. Nevin Coppock has been on the Men's Work Cabinet of Southern Ohio and on the National Men's Work Council and is a member of the District Board. The pastor, H. H. Helman, is a member of the District Board.

There is a present membership of one hundred seventy-eight. The church is growing.

## MIDDLETOWN

The work at Middletown was started by the former Sugar Hill (Lower Twin) church and comprised one of the three divisions of this church: Tom's Run, Sugar Hill, and Middletown. In 1910 it was discovered that eight members resided in this city. These met together in homes and soon asked the mother church for preaching here. In 1913 regular services were begun in a Presbyterian church. In July of that year a Sunday school was organized. Soon it was decided to build a church. The Mission Board furnished some funds. A lot at the corner of Grand Avenue and Moore Street was secured and a church house thirty-eight by forty feet was erected; it was dedicated in November 1914.

Soon the mother church, Sugar Hill, turned the work and the building, debt free, over to the Southern Ohio Mission Board. In 1916 the congregation was formally organized with J. O. Garst as the first elder. In November of that year John Eikenberry was placed here as pastor. He remained



until 1919, two and one-half years. J. O. Garst was in charge as elder and as director of the preaching services as the former history closed. The membership was seventy and the Sunday school averaged fifty-three in attendance.



The Middletown Church

From incomplete records the following information was secured. The next pastor was C. G. Erbaugh, who led the congregation until 1923. Walter Hawke was then secured and was pastor until in October 1926. C. G. Erbaugh served part time until 1931. In September of that year Frank Eby was asked to care for the work; he directed it until September 1934. He was followed as pastor by W. E. Hamilton, who led the Middletown church until 1939. In the spring or summer of 1939 C. W. Warstler was called; he shepherded the church until his resignation as of September 1, 1950. Then Dan Blickenstaff was invited to be the pastor; he continued until September 1952, when he took charge at Cincinnati. In November of that year McKinley Coffman, of Maryland, took over the work here and at Hamilton in a joint pastorate. He is the present pastor.



Elders on the Mission Board usually had charge at Middletown. J. O. Garst served over into the era of this history; J. H. Eidemiller, 1939-41; Ray O. Shank, 1941-46; C. G. Erbaugh, 1946-50; John H. Good, 1950-52; E. Friend Couser, 1952-53; John H. Good, 1953-54; George Phillips, 1954—.

No ministers have been installed. Henry Mankey was licensed in 1925 and 1926. W. E. Hamilton was ordained in 1938.

Two deacons have been installed: Charles Fisher in 1925 and Kenneth Miller in 1945.

In 1930 the church was remodeled at an expense of \$3,800, the Mission Board furnishing \$1,000 of this amount. The final indebtedness was canceled through a gift by will of Ida Feltner.

A parsonage was secured in 1944, at 2400 Hill Avenue. It is the present residence of the pastor, McKinley Coffman.

The membership at Middletown is one hundred fifteen. It is in condition to prosper and grow.

## NEW CARLISLE

The territory of the New Carlisle church was at first a part of the Donnels Creek congregation. In 1864 the members of Donnels Creek purchased the Presbyterian church building. Here the New Carlisle church had its beginning. In 1882 a series of meetings were held here, with considerable success. There was preaching once a month until 1889, when it was changed to every two weeks. Later, in 1906, the services became weekly, with preaching both morning and evening. Sunday school was held regularly from 1886. The first superintendent was B. F. Filbrun.

In 1892 a new brick church, forty by sixty feet, was erected at New Carlisle. Feelings for a separate organization soon developed, and in March of 1914 privilege was given to the New Carlisle members to form a separate congregation. This was effected on March 28, and David Leatherman became the first elder-in-charge. J. H. Eidemiller and D. D. Funderburg were resident ministers. Elder D. S. Dredge moved in



the same year and became elder in 1915. He presided as the former history closed.

The building erected in 1892 was changed and remodeled in 1910 with a balcony and Sunday-school rooms added. In 1917 a major building operation was completed providing an enlarged auditorium, more Sunday-school rooms, and a vestibule and tower. The cost, \$13,000, was raised in full before construction began.

Before the close of the second decade of the twentieth century Elders A. S. Neher, John Gump, and J. E. Barnhart had also moved into the New Carlisle congregation. Also, before this, Roy B. Teach was elected to the ministry and D. D. Funderburg ordained to the eldership. There were over three hundred members and the average attendance at Sunday school was one hundred forty-eight.

At the beginning of the period of this history D. S. Dredge was the presiding elder. The services were being



The New Carlisle Church

conducted by the resident ministers and elders. In September 1926 G. E. Yoder came from Pennsylvania to be the first full-time pastor. He was also the elder from 1929 to 1930.



From 1930 to 1934 J. B. Gump was elder of the church. J. C. Flora followed for one year. H. H. Helman, of Elgin, Illinois, was called as pastor in 1934 and served ten years, until September 1944. He also presided as elder of the church from 1935 to 1944. Robert Sherfy, of Northeastern Ohio, came as pastor in 1934 and remained here over eight years, going to Harrisonburg, Virginia, in January 1953. Walter Hawke was made elder in 1944 and is in charge as this is written. In June 1953 Chester I. Harley came from Virginia to be the pastor.

Between 1920 and the present, Walter Hawke, Jacob Gingrich, and S. P. Early, all elders, moved into the New Carlisle congregation. Elected to the ministry here were Walter Hawke in 1921 and S. L. Barnhart in 1932. Obed Hovatter and Glen Weimer, ministers, also resided here.

In 1937 a parsonage was purchased. It had been the home of Elder D. S. Dredge, who moved to California. In 1940 the pulpit end of the church was rearranged and beautified. In 1950 extensive remodeling was completed, affording an office and other rooms to the rear, a new entrance, art glass windows, and a completely remodeled interior, providing the auditorium a most beautiful worship center. Rededication services were held September 3, 1937, with Rufus D. Bowman giving the dedicatory sermon.

The deacons elected since 1920 include: Herbert Barnhart, Lebert Evans, and John Musselman, 1921; Max Zinn, James Barnhart, and Rieber Studebaker, 1938; Galen Barnhart, 1945; Eldon and Gerald Studebaker, 1946; and Wilmer Funderburg, 1947.

The Sunday-school superintendents since then have been Walter Hawke, Guy Studebaker, Roy Studebaker, Ralph Strome, Eldon Studebaker, Erlan Farling, and Lester Athy.

J. B. Gump was for many years a member of the Brethren Home Board. J. H. Eidemiller gave many years of service on the District Mission Board. H. H. Helman served several years as district secretary and as editor of the *Southern Ohio Herald*; he also was a member of the Ministerial Board and represented the district on Standing Committee. He is at present a member of the newly formed District Board as a

member of the Commission on Ministry, Missions and Church Extension. Robert Sherfy served on the Ministerial Board and on the Youth Cabinet of the district. Mrs. Galen Barnhart is the secretary-treasurer of the District Women's Work.

The church numbers four hundred nineteen members; the Sunday-school attendance averages about two hundred fifty.

### OAKLAND

The Oakland church finds its origin in the Harris Creek (Upper Stillwater) congregation. It was organized in 1865 out of the western part of this territory and took its present name. From two miles west of the Harris Creek church its boundaries extended west to the Greenville and Poplar Grove congregations, north to include the area covered by the North Star and Swamp Creek churches (now non-existent), and south to include Gettysburg.

Isaac Miller, who came here from Virginia, became the first elder-in-charge, moving here from the Salem congregation. He served for about six years, then moved to Michigan.

A church was erected the year following the organization (1866) two and a half miles northeast of Gettysburg. It was of brick.

The work here and at North Star and Swamp Creek was cared for by the local ministers. At North Star a church had been built in 1883. A boundary was decided upon and North Star became a separate organization in 1885. From here on the work at Oakland was committed to its own immediate territory.

In 1915 the church called Hugh Miller as its first pastor; he served until 1919. For a short interim John Eikenberry led the church, until the call of Charles L. Flory in 1920 as part-time pastor. Then followed a line of full-time pastors: Galen B. Royer, 1926-28; H. B. Martin, 1928-35; Ray O. Shank, 1935-39; Fred Hollingshead, 1939-44 (he answered a call to the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, church); Moyne Landis, from Middle Indiana, 1944-53. Earl Hostetter, also from Middle Indiana, became the pastor in September 1953. Moyne Landis



had earlier resigned to become the executive secretary for Southern Ohio.

The building erected in 1866 stood with little alteration until in 1920, when a wing was added enlarging the auditorium and providing Sunday-school rooms. The outside was stuccoed and stained glass windows were installed. Since then modern toilet facilities, classrooms in the basement, a modernized kitchen, and a pipe organ have been added improvements. Just now plans are under consideration for again enlarging the Sunday-school facilities. The organ was a gift of William Long, of Pontiac, Illinois, in memory of his parents. A parsonage, located in Gettysburg, was built and donated to the church in 1930 by the Ira M. Petersime family, incubator manufacturers in Gettysburg.



The Oakland Church

Following the eldership of Isaac Miller there followed Samuel Rairigh, Emanuel Hoover, Jeremiah Katherman, and John Christian, all resident. Then D. M. Garver presided for two years, after which Charles L. Flory began as elder in 1917 and served until 1928, two years after his part-time pastorate was terminated. The eldership of the church passed



from Brother Flory to D. G. Berkebile in 1928, to H. B. Martin in 1929, to Theodore Eley in 1935, to Ray O. Shank in 1938, and to Moyne Landis in 1945; Glenn C. Rust is the present elder.

Other ministers who have resided in Oakland since 1920 include Elmer Aikey, Theodore Eley, Ernest Detrick, and E. S. Petry. Ernest Detrick was licensed in 1941 and ordained as a minister in 1943. Richard Miller was licensed in 1947. Theodore Eley was ordained a minister in 1920. No ordinations to the eldership are recorded since 1920.

In this same period deacons chosen were Henry Miller and Ralph Miller, 1944; Glenn Brewer, J. Q. Neher, and D. C. Kneisley, 1950.

Sunday-school superintendents have been A. E. Aikey, R. T. Waggoner, H. G. Young, Roy Petersime, Chester George, Ralph Strome, Lloyd Miller, and Glenn Brewer.

R. T. Waggoner acted as a trustee of the Brethren Home for two terms. Mrs. Ruth Neher gave two terms of service as secretary of Southern Ohio Women's Work. Ray M. Petersime was twice elected to the Mission Board of the district, and for a number of years has been a trustee-at-large of Manchester College. He also personally supervised the collecting and shipping of one hundred fifty-five cases of hatching eggs, and then personally delivered them by plane to the Polish government at Warsaw, Poland, in co-operation with UNRRA. Chester George, another Oakland layman, was for several years secretary of the District Men's Work as well as vice-president of the National Men's Work Cabinet. He helped direct the establishment of the work at Turkey Creek, Kentucky. Mrs. Moyne Landis has been president of Women's Work in Southern Ohio, and Moyne Landis has served the district on the Ministerial Board, as moderator of the conference, as chairman of the newly formed District Board, and since September 1953 as the executive secretary of the district.

The church has been host to many district gatherings, among which are the Sunday-school institute of 1920; the February mission rally; the district conferences of 1935 and



1951; the midwinter youth conferences of 1934 and 1950; also Women's Work and Men's Work meetings.

This congregation has been zealous in relief work. In 1946 the members canned a total of eighteen thousand six hundred cans of vegetables, which they shipped as a carload to Germany for relief.

Two hundred displaced persons and refugees have lived or are living in the Oakland community, as a result of what is perhaps the largest resettlement activity of any community. The men's work of the church built a home for a refugee family.

Besides this, grain has been sent through the Christian Rural Overseas Program—a carload of wheat in 1946 and later a carload of corn. Over fifty heifers for relief have been contributed.

Since 1952 the Sunday school, the men's work, and the women's work have supported Joy Fasnacht on the India mission field.

The Sunday-school attendance runs over two hundred twenty and the present membership is three hundred forty-five.

### PAINTER CREEK

Brush Creek was the first name carried by the Brethren in this vicinity, it being derived from the name of a creek that empties into the Stillwater River near West Milton. As members settled nearer Greenville that section got the name of Ludlow. This included territory that later comprised the Pitsburg and Painter Creek churches.

Elder Phillip Younce figured prominently in the early days here. Living at Nashville, to which he came from North Carolina in about 1813, he not only was the first elder of Brush Creek but he became literally a traveling evangelist for a very large territory. He held meetings in forests, homes, and barns.

The predecessor to the large church house later erected in this territory was a log cabin, twenty-four by thirty feet, built in 1849. This stood one mile west of Painter Creek. In



1871 another house was built one-half mile north of the village; it was improved in 1885 and then replaced by one built in 1906 and improved in 1914-15. Another house was built at Red River in 1898 and improved in 1917.



The Painter Creek Church

Succeeding Phillip Younce, who went to Pleasant Hill, was William Cassel, who had charge until he joined the Old Order movement in 1881. He was followed by Tobias Kreider, who presided until 1902. Following his death, Jesse Stutsman became the overseer. He continued and helped to guide the movement that culminated in the organization of the Painter Creek church in 1914. It was at a meeting at Pitsburg in January 1914 that the decision was made to divide Ludlow into Pitsburg and Painter Creek. Church lines were decided upon and one thousand dollars was paid to Painter Creek to equalize the value of the church property.

Officially the church was organized on February 7, 1914. William Royer was made the first presiding elder. Later Lawrence Kreider was made co-elder with him; still later



Brother Kreider had the oversight alone and was presiding when the 1920 history was compiled.

The preaching was done by the resident ministers mostly, alternating between Painter Creek and Red River, until in 1929, when Roy Honeyman became the part-time pastor. He continued until 1942, when he went to Piqua and was succeeded by Paul C. Lantis, who went to Northern Indiana in 1949. Byron Miller, a recent Bethany Seminary graduate, came in 1949 and is the present pastor.

Since 1900 the church has ordained Roy Honeyman (1921) and Byron Miller (1951) to the eldership.

Ordinations to the ministry since 1920 include: Roy Honeyman and Blaine Flory, 1921; Albert Smith and Walter Swinger, 1926.



The Red River Church

Deacons installed since the former history was published are: J. J. Riffel, 1923; Charles Snyder and Wesley Hocker, 1925; Blaine Flory, Isaiah Loxley, and Jesse Baker, 1928; Herman Neff, Millard Snyder, Virgil Royer, and Raymond Eberwein, 1938.

Elders-in-charge in succession have been, beginning in 1920: Newton Binkley, William Royer, Lawrence Kreider, Sylvan Bookwalter, D. G. Berkebile, Roy Honeyman, Theodore Eley, Roy Honeyman, Walter Stinebaugh, Dean Frantz, and Glenn C. Rust.

The Sunday-school superintendents since 1920 include Roy Honeyman, W. R. Swinger, Catherine Royer, Ethel Loxley, Roy Eberwein, Jesse Baker, Verl Wright, and Willard Spitler.

H. Spenser Minnich of the mission offices at Elgin was a native of this church. Ivan Eikenberry, of our Nigeria mission, formerly lived here. It was the home of the late Levi Minnich, who was an early member of the Sunday School Board of the Brotherhood, long a trustee of Manchester College, and an ardent temperance worker. Treva Eberwein has been a camp leader, as have also Roy Honeyman and Susie Minnich. Paul C. Lantis, while pastor here, was a member of the Men's Work Cabinet; Ralph Delk and James Fourman have been active in the Heifers for Relief Project. The pastor, Byron Miller, is the assistant moderator for the district.

The church entertained the Southern Ohio district conference of 1922, the missionary rally of 1949, and a ministers' conference in 1948.

When Painter Creek was organized in 1914 it comprised a membership of two hundred three, and the same number in 1920, as per the 1920 history. The congregation records two hundred eighty-one members at present, including those residing in the Red River area.

In 1941 the Sunday school celebrated the "Golden Jubilee," 1891-1941. In 1948, at Red River, the one-hundredth anniversary of the first Brethren services in the community was observed. The church continues to grow. It has very active women's work and men's work organizations and has liberally contributed heifers, corn, wheat, canned goods, clothing, and bedding, all for relief abroad.

A parsonage has been purchased and the members are now in the process of remodeling the Painter Creek house of worship.



## PIQUA

Previous to July 1925, all members of the Piqua church were a part of the Covington congregation. Women members living here organized a Piqua branch of the Ladies' Aid in 1914. It was in this group that the move was started to organize a Sunday school at Piqua. This was realized in June 1925, when a group of members met in the home of J. M. Wise and elected officers for a school.

The group rented a small church building on Boal Avenue, in the southwestern part of the city. The first Sunday school was held on July 12, 1925, with an attendance of fifty-two. There were about seventy members in Piqua at this time. In January of 1926 the Piqua members elected trustees and soon purchased this church building. The building and furnishings were acquired at a cost of \$2,000. The ladies' aid had saved \$300 for this and made the initial payment.

During a revival held in the spring of 1926 by C. F. McKee twenty-five new members were added to the church. In June a student pastor, Calvert N. Ellis, came for the summer. By fall the local membership had reached a total of one hundred twenty. Services were continued through the winter with Charles L. Flory preaching on alternate Sundays.

In April of 1927 the members met to organize a separate church in Piqua. This was done with D. G. Berkebile as the first presiding elder. Calvert N. Ellis returned for another summer. The work showed real promise. The District Mission Board agreed to help the new church finance pastoral service. Charles L. Flory was secured as pastor, beginning in September 1927. There were then one hundred twenty-seven members. Brother Flory continued on this basis until September 1930, when Piqua and Troy joined in his employment, this arrangement continuing until September 1934. Then visiting ministers were secured for a year or more. There were two hundred ten members by this time. In 1936 J. H. Eidemiller became pastor, continuing until 1941, when Roy Honeyman was secured. These two ministers did not live in Piqua and served on a part-time basis.

It was in 1947 that the first full-time pastor was called. He was Harold Miller, a Bethany Seminary graduate. In 1950

Byron Flory of Virginia was called; he remained until September 1953, when Samuel Keller of Northwestern Ohio succeeded him. The membership has grown to three hundred forty.



The Piqua Church

The church building was remodeled and a basement added in 1928. A heating plant was installed and a larger vestibule added. Five thousand seven hundred dollars was spent on the project. Again in 1954 the congregation began a rebuilding program, which is in progress as this is written.

The members have purchased the property adjoining the church and moved the house on it to the rear of the church for a parsonage, purposing to use the space vacated for enlarging the church building.

The church has been under the supervision of these elders through the years: D. G. Berkebile, elected in 1927 at the time of the organization; J. H. Eidemiller in 1936; Oliver Royer in 1939; Fred Hollingshead in 1943; D. G. Berkebile in 1944; and Ray O. Shank in 1949. No ministers have been



licensed or ordained, but A. H. Weimer lived in the congregation for a while.

The church has installed seven deacons, however, in the years since the organization: Ray A. Porter, J. M. Wise, and U. S. Kreider in 1927; E. J. Banks, Harry Hart, Harley Higgins, and R. E. Petry in 1938.

The Sunday-school superintendents, in order, have been J. M. Wise, Ray A. Porter, Ucal Kreider, Paul Berkebile, Alma Rasor, Richard Honeyman, and Robert Beaver.

A district ministerial meeting was held here some years ago. Ray A. Porter served on the District Mission Board for two full terms, acting as treasurer most of the time. J. M. Wise has been active in Adult Work and in temperance education and has for many years been manager of the *Southern Ohio Herald*.

In 1935 the church observed the tenth anniversary of its organization.

## PITSBURG

Brush Creek dates back into the 1820's. It got its name from that given to a group of Brethren who first settled in Darke County, emigrants from Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Some moved into the Pittsburg area and that section was known as Ludlow, others into the Painter Creek area and took that name. The whole group was then known as the Younce church from the activities there of Elder Phillip Younce.

The Ludlow group became the Pittsburg church. The first house of worship was a log one built in 1857 just north of Pittsburg. In 1870 another was erected on the present site. Then in 1893 still another, at the same place, replaced that one built in 1870. This latter building was improved in 1917 and was in use thus at the beginning of the third decade of the twentieth century.

The Ludlow group joined with Salem in 1860 in the erection of a meetinghouse at Georgetown (Potsdam). This group developed into the Potsdam congregation.

Pitsburg (Ludlow) grew along with the whole Brush Creek group and by the late 1870's there were over four hundred members altogether. Just how many of these were in the Ludlow congregation is not recorded.

This 1870 building at Pitsburg was the meeting place of the Old Order group in 1881 at the time it was decided by leaders of the group to withdraw from the church. Then in 1886 the Annual Conference was held near Pitsburg. The minutes indicate that it was a very important one.

It was not until 1914 that Pitsburg was made a separate congregation. In that year the Brush Creek territory was divided into two organizations, the other one being Painter Creek. After two years the former name, Ludlow, was changed to Pitsburg. Newton Binkley, the first presiding elder, continued until 1919, when S. A. Blessing became elder. Thus he was presiding when the period covered by this history began. At this time the church numbered two hundred twenty-five members. Elders within the membership included Jesse Stutsman, Newton Binkley, and Edward Miller. Charles Hylton was a minister. These assumed some of the pulpit responsibilities both at the Pitsburg house and at Georgetown, sharing them at the latter place with Salem.

Since 1920 Pitsburg has been under the following elders: N. W. Binkley to 1926; S. A. Blessing to 1927; N. W. Binkley to 1933; Wilmer Petry to 1934; Charles Flory to 1936; G. O. Stutsman to 1939; Oliver Royer to 1942; Roy Teach to 1947; W. Glenn McFadden to 1950; Dolar Ritchey to the present.

The church was supplied by the free ministry for several years before calling a pastor. However, a small compensation was usually given for each sermon. The work prospered and the church grew. In 1927 Charles L. Flory was invited to become the part-time pastor. He and his wife did much good work. In May 1928 Wilmer Petry came to work with the church on full time. While here he was married to Miss Lucille Brower, and together they served with much success until in 1934 they resigned to accept a church in Northeastern Ohio.

Then the church returned to using the local ministers and others invited to preach from surrounding churches.

In September 1936 a call was extended to Roy K. Miller



of Middle Pennsylvania. The interest was good and Brother Miller continued until 1939, when he accepted a call to the Brownsville church in Middle Maryland. Following this, Elder Ira Blocher did the preaching for a few months. W. R. Swinger, having moved here following ten years with mission-supported churches of Southern Ohio, then took over the pastoral duties along with his regular employment. In 1942, John Grimley and wife, under appointment by the General Mission Board to enter mission work on the foreign field, were invited to serve the church in the interim until they should leave for the Nigeria field.

When the Grimleys left, W. C. Stinebaugh of Indiana was called and began pastoral duties in September 1944; he continued with the church until in November 1949, when he became pastor of the Wabash, Indiana, church. Both Brother Grimley and Brother Stinebaugh taught classes in the week-day school of religion and Mrs. (Olive Bagwell) Stinebaugh was one of the religious instructors in the Darke County schools.

There was a lapse of a year without a pastor and again the local ministers and others invited from outside ministered to the church.

In October 1950 George W. Wright came from Western Pennsylvania to become pastor; he continues in this field at this writing. William Royer and W. R. Swinger are resident elders and are active in the local work. The only ordination since 1920 has been that of Edward Miller, in 1922.

Many deacons have been installed, however, since then, including: Joseph Oda and Boyd Miller, 1920; D. W. Bright and G. E. Porter, 1930; Irvin Aukerman, S. C. Gnagey, and Homer L. Royer, 1936; Roy Oswalt, Daniel A. Smith, and Charles Miller, 1942; Harley Utz and Ellis Williamson, 1948. Elected in 1952 were John Eikenberry and Merle Kepler.

Sunday-school superintendents who have served are, consecutively: Jennie Miller, Irvin Baker, Jesse Baker, D. W. Bright, Jennie Miller, D. W. Bright, Pearl Jobes, Homer Royer, Russell B. Lutz, Daniel A. Smith, Omer Niswonger, Daniel A. Smith, Merle Kepler, Harley D. Utz, Merle Kepler, and Daniel A. Smith.



The title to the property was held by the Old Order Brethren until in 1952, when the original deed was given to the congregation. Extensive improvements were made in



The Pittsburg Church

1946-48, including the enlarging of the Sunday-school facilities, rewiring the structure, installing an oil furnace, remodeling and modernizing the kitchen, adding a vestibule, and installing toilets. Other improvements are in contemplation. Being one of Southern Ohio's larger church buildings it has been used for many district gatherings, among them the district conferences of 1937 and 1949, the midwinter youth conference of 1948, the district women's summer conference of 1947, and the district mission rally.

Members of Pittsburg have worked in various capacities in the district: Edward Miller on the Board of Christian Education; S. C. Gnagey as a trustee of the Greenville Brethren Home for many years; William Royer, W. C. Stinebaugh, and W. R. Swinger on the Credential Committee; and J. W. Eikenberry and W. R. Swinger on the Apportionment Committee.

With two hundred thirty-nine members credited to this church when the 1920 history was written, the number has



increased through the years and now stands at two hundred seventy-eight. There is a splendid Sunday school, an active youth group, and many children, the hope for the future church. The men's and women's organizations are quite active. There is a promising outlook.

### PLEASANT HILL

The Pleasant Hill (Newton) church seems to have been organized between 1856 and 1857 at the suggestion of an Annual Conference committee, its territory formerly belonging to the Covington congregation. The first building was erected in 1856. An influencing personality in its earliest days was Elder John Codwallader, of Virginia and Highland County, Ohio. He was too liberal for some and in the dissension that arose he was disfellowshipped, restored, and disfellowshipped again, lastly in 1874. He and his followers formed the earliest nucleus of the Progressive church there. Isaac Price afterward ministered to the "Newton" church, being helped some by Simon Mikesell and John Studebaker. Samuel Mohler presided as elder for a number of these early years until 1891. After 1876 the congregation seemed to have smoother sailing and was blessed with many strong ministers and elders.

It was in 1903 that the present edifice was begun and in 1916 that the Sunday-school annex was added, the total cost of both being about \$22,000.

The church's first stated pastor was Charles L. Flory, who was with it in that capacity from 1913 to 1919, after which John A. Robinson served until 1925. Then followed J. C. Flora, 1925-27; W. C. Detrick, 1927-28; Charles Zunkel, 1928-32; Ivan Erbaugh, 1934-35 (deceased while serving); Oliver Royer, 1935-45; Dean Frantz, 1945-51. Leland Emrick succeeded Brother Frantz in 1951 and is there as this is written.

Pleasant Hill has called and installed three ministers since the second decade of the century: Mark Shellhaas in 1923, Otis Landis in 1941, and Keith Hoover in 1947.

Elders who have had the oversight of the church include John Robinson, 1919-25; J. C. Flora, 1925-27; William C.

Detrick, 1927-31; Charles L. Flory, 1931-33; I. R. Beery, 1933-35, Ivan Erbaugh, 1935; D. G. Berkebile, 1935-36; Oliver Royer, 1936-45; Roy Honeyman, 1945-47; W. Glenn McFadden, 1947-50; Perry Huffaker, 1950—.

Ordinations include that of Charles Zunkel in 1932 and that of Dean Frantz in 1947.

Mrs. Eva Kindell holds an outstanding record as Sunday-school superintendent, serving from 1900 to 1920.

The church was represented on the India mission field by John Pittenger, who, with his wife, began foreign service in 1904. It is one of the Southern Ohio churches giving special support to Ivan and Mary Eikenberry on the Nigeria field. One thousand dollars was contributed to the World Council of Churches for a parish house in war-stricken Europe. Jean West and Keith Hoover, youth of the congregation, were goodwill representatives in Germany. Besides these, several



The Pleasant Hill Church

young men and women have entered Brethren Service. In addition to a large amount of relief work, which included giving two thousand nine hundred thirty-seven bushels of



wheat for Holland and tons of clothing and bedding, the members have given residence to two displaced persons families and have had five German students living in their homes. Thirty-five heifers have been raised for shipment abroad.

The women are organized and very active, as also are the men, and the CBYF represents a large and active group. Youth leaders and workers have included Dan West, Mark and Thelma Shellhaas, Keith Hoover, Bob, Jean and Kenneth West, Lois Royer, and Ivan Renner. In both 1925 and 1931 the midwinter youth conference was held in this church.

Having a commodious auditorium, Pleasant Hill has been host to several district gatherings: the summer assembly of 1921, the Women's Work conference of 1936, the district conference of 1948, besides mission rallies and smaller youth conferences.

The Sunday-school annex was recently remodeled to provide classrooms for children; the mothers' room was prepared as a prayer room, with a worship center, which is open certain hours each day for prayer and meditation; tower chimes and a public address system, with hearing aids, have been installed. The installation of an electric organ is in prospect.

The congregation numbers three hundred sixty-three. It is represented on the District Board by O. L. Hoover, who is the treasurer, and Leland Emrick, who is a member of the District Council of Men's Work.

### PLEASANT VALLEY

Pleasant Valley was at first a part of Greenville Creek and later of Union City. It was organized out of Union City in 1891. W. K. Simmons was the first elder-in-charge.

A frame church house was built in 1888, before the congregation became an independent organization. This building was thirty-eight by fifty-eight feet in size. A schoolhouse, remodeled in 1883, was another preaching place. In 1900 the schoolhouse was replaced by a frame house of worship thirty-six by fifty-four. This was called the Jordan



house. Attempts had been made to centralize and have one house, but so far without results.

At the beginning of the period of this history, B. F. Sharp was in charge as elder and Rolland F. Flory was acting as pastor. There was a membership of seventy-eight, including four ministers and four deacons residing in the congregation.

Rolland Flory continued as pastor until 1922. He was succeeded by Charles Ferror, who had been installed as a minister by this church in 1900, and who remained here two years. Arthur Dodge then ministered to the congregation for two years. Charles Stocksdales followed him, serving from 1926 to 1931. Then Lester Heisey was here one year and Wilmer Petry two years, 1932-34. I. R. Beery was called to be pastor in 1935; he served until 1937. C. G. Erbaugh led the church from 1938 to 1944. Roy Karns followed him as pastor, 1944-45. Then S. S. Blough was called in 1945 to be the first full-time pastor and the first to take residence in the lately purchased parsonage. He remained until 1948, when he retired from the active ministry. E. S. Hollinger became the next full-time pastor and is the present incumbent.

B. F. Sharp continued as elder of Pleasant Valley until



The Pleasant Valley Church



1922. David Minnich then took charge, serving from 1922 to 1926. Ivan Erbaugh had the pastoral oversight of the church from 1926 to 1934, to be followed by Theodore Eley for one year. R. N. Leatherman was then elected but was with the congregation only a short time when he died. G. O. Stutsman finished out the year, and then D. G. Berkebile was elected. He was the presiding elder from 1938 to 1949. Kenneth Long has been the elder since then.

Besides Rolland Flory, one other minister was ordained to the eldership, Arthur Dodge, who was advanced in 1925. Eugene Lenker was licensed to preach in 1946 and ordained to the ministry in 1948. Robert Lenker was licensed in 1951.

Four deacons were residing in the congregation at the beginning of this period; five more have since been elected and installed: Bert McKibben in 1924, Herschel Oswalt in 1930, C. R. Rhoades in 1943, and Simon Rhoades and Glen Stocksdales in 1948. At a council meeting on March 2, 1953, John C. and Enid Puterbaugh and Carl and Bessie Carey were elected deacons.

Beginning with A. J. Minnich, who was in charge of the Sunday school at the close of the former history, the superintendents have been, in order, Bert McKibben, W. A. Clark, Glen Stocksdales, Richard Stocksdales, Glen Stocksdales, Simon Rhoades, Edna Caupp, Herman Stocksdales, Gerald Lenker, C. R. Rhoades, Harold Rhoades, and Donald Stocksdales, in the order of their first election to that office.

The original church building, erected in 1888, has been several times improved and remodeled. First, rooms were added for Sunday-school classes. In 1939 the location of the pulpit was changed and a vestibule and two more classrooms were provided. A dedication was held with Otho Winger as the speaker. Volunteer labor provided most of the construction. In 1940 the church was again improved by the installation of a new furnace, the laying of new oak floors, the enlarging of the pulpit space, and the laying of new carpets. A dedication, with Edward Kintner speaking, was held.

The most recent improvement was the installation of an electric organ in December 1951. It was dedicated with appropriate services in January of 1952.

One project of this congregation especially worthy of note was the purchase of a farm, the house on which became the parsonage. After a careful study of the matter it was agreed to take pledges for the project. When \$3,500 had been paid in, it was used as the down payment on a farm of forty acres about one-half mile from the church. The house was modernized, the lawn was landscaped, and the first occupants, Pastor and Mrs. S. S. Blough, moved in after appropriate dedication services. The farm is managed by the board of five church trustees. The ground is farmed by volunteer labor and the income, since the mortgage was paid off, is used for current needs. A mortgage-burning ceremony was held in October of 1950. It has been a worthy project successfully managed.

The church now records a membership of ninety-four. The average attendance is about seventy. There have been forty-five baptisms in the last five years.

### POPLAR GROVE

Poplar trees planted on the church grounds gave this church its name. The trees have ceased to be but the church moves on. It is a child of the Union City (Greenville Creek) congregation, cut from this territory and organized into a separate congregation in 1903. There were ninety-seven members of record, with two ministers and three deacons included. Samuel Blocher, Jr., was placed in charge, with J. G. Helman assisting. Brother Blocher seems to have been in charge of the work until December 1916.

A rather large house of worship was erected in 1898. The dedication was held in November with Isaac Frantz giving the dedicatory sermon.

At the beginning of the third decade of the twentieth century there were one hundred seventy members and an average Sunday-school attendance of ninety-seven. B. F. Sharp was elder-in-charge and acting pastor.

B. F. Sharp continued as elder until 1928. Then William U. Wagner took over and presided until 1933. For one year



Wilmer Petry was the elder. Theodore Eley presided from 1934 to 1944. D. G. Berkebile followed for one year. James M. Moore was then elected to be in charge; this relationship was terminated by his death in January 1955.

B. F. Sharp acted as pastor until 1921, when Theodore Eley became the leader; he continued until 1928. Then William U. Wagner led the congregation from 1928 to 1932. Wilmer Petry served in 1934. R. N. Leatherman was designated pastor in 1935, and was succeeded in 1936 by D. G. Berkebile, who remained at Poplar Grove nine years. In 1945 James M. Moore came from Pennsylvania to take up the pastorate; here he worked until January 1955.

Besides the ministers named above, U. R. McCorkle, an elder, has resided in the congregation since 1927. Paul Halladay was installed into the ministry in 1919 and lived here



The Poplar Grove Church

until joining the faculty of Manchester College. Wilmer Eley was licensed in 1943.

The present deacon board consists of: H. M. Blocher (a charter member of the church); Earl Wagner (installed in

1936); Harry Williams (installed the same year); Lyle Bond and Richard Stocksdales (installed in 1948); Charles Rinebarger, William Paulin, Mered Blocher, and Carl Eikenberry (installed in 1954). In 1927 Ralph Halladay had been installed into the deacon's office. The deacon body of former years was composed of: Jacob Noffsinger; S. W. Bollinger; Emanuel Hollinger; Jacob Halladay; Frank Huffman; Ralph Halladay; and Wesley Keltner. With the exception of Emanuel Hollinger, who moved away in 1938, all these are deceased.

The work of the Sunday school has been directed by the following superintendents: Levi Blocher, 1920-22; H. M. Blocher, 1923-24; Hugh Onkst, 1925-29; Orla Huffman, 1930-32; Prudence Eley, 1933-36; Richard Stocksdales, 1937-39; Bessie Huffman, 1940-41; Lawrence Miller, 1942; Ralph Halladay, 1943-45; since 1946, Charles Rinebarger.

In November 1948 a fitting program was given commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the dedication of the present building.

The church has furnished leaders for the wider fields. Theodore Eley, Ruth Halladay Burkett, and Bessie Huffman have been camp leaders. Mrs. Burkett has also been on the District Youth Cabinet. H. M. Blocher was for several years a trustee of the Brethren Home. The church was host to the district conference of 1925, to the missionary rally in 1945, and to other smaller district gatherings.

The house of worship has recently undergone extensive remodeling; a rededication service was held in October of 1952 with Paul W. Kinsel delivering the sermon. Twenty-eight of the charter members are still living, several of whom enjoyed the rededication service. The remodeled building now has a lovely sanctuary, adequate classrooms, a kitchen, a dining room, restrooms, a mothers' room, and space for more classrooms when needed.

Interest has been manifested in and contributions are continuing for the work of the Brotherhood, the district, Brethren Service, European and Near East relief, and the Heifer Project.

The membership is one hundred fifty-five. The work is encouraging and the prospects good for growth.



## POTSDAM

This is a church which was not included in the history of 1920. That history did, however, record the erection of a building at Potsdam (Georgetown) jointly by Salem and Ludlow (Pittsburg) in 1860. This was superseded in 1875 by a larger one, and this by a still larger and more modern one in 1917-18.

Through the years the Potsdam church continued to be a part of both the Salem and the Pittsburg congregation. Back through the years it was served by the free ministry, including both resident ministers and those living in the parent congregations and other near-by churches. Included in this group of ministers were: Lester O. Heisey, P. N. Cool, W. C. Detrick, Mrs. W. C. Detrick, Foster Myers, A. H. Bucklew, Sylvan Bookwalter, and S. A. Blessing.



The Potsdam Church

The congregation was organized as a separate church in 1924, with one hundred seventy charter members and with Sylvan Bookwalter as the first elder; he continued in charge



until 1932. S. A. Blessing followed, serving to 1950, when Ray O. Shank became elder. Philip Lauver succeeded him.

The congregation decided, in 1947, to change the name from Georgetown to Potsdam.

Four deacons were installed in 1952, namely, Lester Hall, Alva Petry, Harry Hutcheson, and Franklin Baker. Sunday-school superintendents reported are, in order, as follows: Harry Delk, 1924; Robert Honeyman, 1934; Harris Shanck, 1938.

In 1948 a move was begun for the erection of a parsonage and the employment of a full-time pastor. The previous year the church had purchased thirty acres of land adjacent to the church grounds, and from this church farm the men cut logs to make timber for the parsonage. The house was constructed and ready for occupancy by September 1, 1950. It is a beautiful seven-room frame structure with full basement, adjoining breezeway, and garage. The approximate cost was \$15,000, plus the volunteer labor by men of the church. By September 17, 1950, the day of dedication, \$12,500 had been collected toward the cost.

On September 1, 1950, L. John Weaver came from the Eaton church to become the first pastor at Potsdam. From the one hundred seventy charter members the congregation has grown to number three hundred four at present. Conditions are favorable for continued growth.

The church entertained a rural life conference in 1953. John Lowell Hutcheson represented the church in Brethren Volunteer Service. The pastor, L. John Weaver, is a member of the District Board.

## PRICES CREEK

The origin of the Prices Creek church roots back into the proximity of its location to the Twin Creek area, and to the emigration of staunch Pennsylvania members into the territory. In 1820 Twin Creek members moved along the banks of Prices Creek. A dozen Pennsylvanians located here in 1832. These combined to make the charter membership of the Prices Creek organization in 1834. There was no house of



worship until 1850, services being held in homes and in barns. In that year a church was built at Castine. The membership grew rapidly and another building was erected to the west of Prices Creek in 1864, ten miles north of Eaton, unique in the fact that it provided for housing the caretaker. The congregation continuing to grow, another church house was built more than a dozen miles northwest of this latter one in 1894, to be known as Cedar Grove. Thus, out of the original territory comprising about one hundred eighty square miles there arose three rather flourishing congregations. Prices Creek had, through these early years, many leaders whose names were familiar throughout the Brotherhood. It has the distinction of calling some ministers who later became well-known church leaders.



The Prices Creek Church

At the close of the second decade of the twentieth century the officialdom of the church consisted of ten deacons and eight ministers. This was before Castine and Cedar Grove became separate organizations. Herschel Weaver, elected to the ministry here in 1907 and ordained in 1917, was deceased



in 1920, to be followed, as elder, by S. A. Blessing. He was the pastor until 1922. Although the congregation was rather noted for the election of many ministers before 1920, subsequent to that date the records show but two elections, that of B. W. Timmons in 1921 and that of Leland B. Emrick in 1942.

Herschel Weaver served the church well until his early death in 1920. Following Brother Weaver's decease, I. G. Blocher of Greenville took over the eldership, becoming the pastor also in 1923, and served until 1928. Then H. Jesse Baker, having moved into the congregation, assumed the leadership as both elder and pastor until 1937, when he moved to Polo, Illinois. In 1934, during his pastorate, the congregation celebrated its centennial anniversary.

After being assisted by visiting ministers for a few months, Prices Creek called Kenneth W. Hollinger to be the pastor. In 1942 the church ordained him to the eldership; he presided until 1943. E. R. Fisher of Trotwood was then chosen elder, continuing in that capacity until 1949. Roy G. Engle came as pastor in 1943 and served until 1946, at which time Henry T. Barnhart of Dayton assumed the pastoral leadership. He also became elder in 1949.

The original building, erected in 1864, remains as the present house of worship, though remodeled in 1907, 1918, 1934, 1939, 1945, and 1951, the last a \$10,000 project including a modern kitchen, restrooms, a new entrance, and additional Sunday-school rooms.

The membership of this church has fluctuated but there has been a persistent growth. It first suffered in the split of 1881. In 1926 it suffered somewhat of a membership setback by the withdrawal of a group to unite with the Dunkard Brethren. In contributing to the charter membership of Castine in 1922, and of Cedar Grove in 1941, the Prices Creek membership was reduced, but it kept on growing and records a membership of some two hundred sixty-five members at this writing. This church also fed into the Richmond, Indiana, church.

Returning to leaders furnished, this church has been represented in widely scattered areas. It called and ordained Sylvan Bookwalter, a leader in the local district. H. F.



Richards, who was here elected to the ministry in 1908, has served the Brotherhood in several capacities. Oliver Royer was included among those called to the ministry (1911), later to serve other churches and districts. Leland Emrick, elected in 1942, has served in the local district and elsewhere.

The 1920 Southern Ohio history relates that the average Sunday-school attendance at that time was one hundred one. The figure for 1948 shows a growth to one hundred sixty-five.

This church began to call deacons into office as early as 1832, and had called no fewer than twenty-six up to 1920. Since then it has called eleven and received one by letter. They include Ezra Deaton, 1927; Earl Petry, C. C. Longanecker, Amos Hollinger, 1929; John Smith, by letter, 1934; E. C. Burnett and S. K. Miller, 1934; Charles H. Miller and Elvin Spitler, 1942; Harlan Snyder, Edwin Leas, Kenneth Cabaniss, 1951.

Among those known to have acted as Sunday-school superintendent since 1920 are Paul Getz, Don Weaver, S. K. Miller, Elvin Spitler, E. C. Burnett, and Edwin Leas.

Paul Getz represented this congregation in Brethren Volunteer Service in Poland; Deloris Petry and Vera Lee in work camp service.

Prices Creek was host to the Southern Ohio district conference in 1938.

## ROCK HOUSE

On September 2, 1932, by vote of the members of the Wolfe Creek, Kentucky, church, the Rock House congregation was formed out of its membership, with twenty-two charter members. The newly formed fellowship chose Lester Heisey, of Laura, Ohio, to be its pastor, and elected three deacons, Ken Blackburn, Thomas Elkins, and Rell McGuire. It was included in the territory of the District of Tennessee.

The first meetings were held in the school buildings, but in July 1933 preparations were begun to erect a house of worship. The building was quickly erected and soon in use, one of the first services being a communion service.

In September 1935 two more deacons were chosen, James Francis and Russell Elkins. At the same time Carl Reed, Rell

McGuire, and Ermal Staton were chosen to be licensed to preach.

In 1935 Reuel B. Pritchett, of White Pine, Tennessee, was elected elder-in-charge. He presided until 1940, when he was succeeded by Keither Wilson of Turkey Creek. In 1944 Walter E. Hawke of New Carlisle, Ohio, became elder, and in 1947 Clarence Erbaugh of New Lebanon, Ohio. Keither Wilson assumed charge again in 1949, followed by Fayette Fields in 1950. At present Keither Wilson has charge as elder.

It seems that Lester Heisey continued in the pastoral leadership until 1939, when the church chose Keither Wilson to lead. In that same year Brother Rell McGuire was installed into the full ministry and Ermal Staton was relicensed. In this year also the congregation asked to be transferred to the District of Southern Ohio. The following Annual Conference granted the transfer.

In 1947 the church chose Howard Erbaugh of Dayton and Fayette Fields to act as co-pastors. In June 1950, the congregation voted to become a self-supported organization, releasing the Mission Board of Southern Ohio from further obligations.

John W. Wright was chosen as a deacon in August 1951, and at the same time Fayette Fields was elected as elder. He continued until 1952, when he was succeeded by Keither Wilson.

Improvements were made on the building in 1952, which included installing a furnace and painting the church inside and outside. The basement had been completed in 1949 and the building completely wired.

Homer Conley and Sterling Elkins were licensed to preach in 1952.

As of the present writing the church has a membership of twenty-five. A new arrangement for assistance from Pastor Kenneth Fisher of Turkey Creek has created a marked new interest in this congregation.

The list of Sunday-school superintendents, available for the years from 1941 to the present, includes, in order, Rell McGuire, R. H. Reed, Rell McGuire, Thelma Bevins, Russell Elkins, and Sterling Elkins.



It should be noted that a great deal of the credit for establishing a church here rests with the deceased Lester Heisey, who labored sacrificially here during its early years.

### SALEM

In the division of the territory of the Lower Miami church in 1811 by the "Virginia Committee," two of the divisions were known as Lower Stillwater and Wolf Creek. Parts of these two divisions later comprised the Salem church, which was organized in 1817. It included the very northern portion of these two congregations. In the new territory and organization was Emanuel Flory, who became the first presiding elder. His helpers in the ministry were John Studebaker and Isaac Karns; there were three deacons also in the fifty-two charter members. It is significant that from the time of its organization until 1881, Salem listed twenty ministers and twenty-one deacons, from 1881 to 1920 there were twenty ministers and twenty-eight deacons, while from 1920 to the present it has listed fifteen ministers and twenty-five deacons.

The earliest services were held in homes and in barns, some of the latter being constructed with this in mind. Besides the elder and ministers named above, those who ministered in those early days included Isaac Miller, John Bower, David Murray, John W. Sollenberger, and Jesse Kinsey.

In 1869 Salem was ceded some territory from in and around West Milton by the Brush Creek (Ludlow) congregation. No ministers came with this group, but it included two deacons. This area formed the nucleus for the West Milton church, organized in 1908.

The first church house at Salem (present site) was erected in 1854 on a two-acre plot of ground. It was of brick. In 1876 the second one was built. Salem joined with Ludlow in building a house of worship at Potsdam the same year. Another house was built at Arlington in 1886, and was jointly served by Salem and Wolf Creek and later by Salem and Brookville. The work at Arlington was not successful and the building was sold in 1928.

In 1917-18 the Salem house was remodeled and enlarged.

By 1920 the fifty-two charter members were succeeded by four hundred twenty-five enrolled. A few members were lost in 1926 to the Dunkard Brethren movement when this group started services at Englewood.

Ordinations of elders since 1920 include that of Earl Gorrell, 1942, and that of J. Calvin Bright, 1947. Ministers ordained, in order, include William Hollinger, 1920; Cleo Beery, 1927; John Kneisly, 1930; Earl Gorrell, 1939; Jerry Gibboney, 1942; and J. Calvin Bright, 1945. Licensing had preceded these as follows: William Hollinger, 1920; Cleo Beery, 1926; John Kneisly, 1927; Earl Gorrell, 1938; Jerry Gibboney, 1940; J. Calvin Bright, 1941. Merlin Cassell was licensed in 1942.

Deacons installed since 1920 are: William Wenger and Albert Landis, 1926; George W. Teeter, Charles Miller, and Ira Landis, 1927; Mose Eby, Earl Gorrell, and Jeff Loughman, 1934; Carl Seibel and Charles Lightner, 1938; Ora Diehl, Clarence Kindell, and Willard Spitler, 1940. David Minnich and Paul Oda were elected in 1950.

Elders-in-charge at Salem for this period begin with William Minnich, whose term extended from 1910 to 1921. E. E. Brumbaugh was elected in 1922, 1924, 1926, 1936, 1938, 1940, and 1944. Sylvan Bookwalter was chosen in 1925, 1936, and 1937. Edward Miller was in charge from 1939 to 1940. J. Homer Bright was elected in 1945, Earl Gorrell in 1946, Roy B. Teach in 1947. C. C. Sollenberger then served until 1949. Earl Gorrell followed in 1950; Ray O. Shank in 1951. L. John Weaver succeeded him in 1954.

Other elders who have resided in the Salem congregation include Charles L. Floyd and A. H. Bucklew, while a larger number of ministers have had their residence here: Joe Robbins, Lester Heisey, Mary E. Teeter, Stanley Wenger, and John C. Brumbaugh, besides those named elsewhere.

It took some time for Salem to decide on calling a pastor. The matter began to take form in 1918, and was officially deferred in 1919, 1920, 1921, and 1927. Then in 1940 a vote was taken on calling a pastor but failed to carry by a sufficient majority. But in 1944 the proposition carried by an eighty percent majority, and in late summer of that year C. C.



Sollenberger was invited to become pastor; he took over the duties in June of 1945 and continued until June 1950. Foster M. Bittinger became Salem's second full-time pastor.

The Salem congregation has been a leader in Sunday schools. It was in 1887 that the first school was held, limited at first to summers only. Not everybody was in favor of it but the school went on. Soon the interest was general. Teachers' meetings were instituted, held mostly in homes. In 1937 the fiftieth anniversary of the Sunday school was held with some of the earliest workers and teachers being present. The first superintendents of the Sunday school were John H. Brumbaugh and Elijah Rohrer. In 1920 William Hollinger was acting as superintendent, followed in succession by C. W. Fisher, D. K. Rinehart, Katie Flory, Cleo Beery, Katie Flory, Albert Landis, Ralph Seibert, Albert Landis, Clarence Kindell,



The Salem Church

Wilbur Erbaugh, Clarence Kindell, Albert Landis, and Clarence Kindell, who is the present incumbent.

Missions-wise Salem has a splendid record. The Flory family, in Ezra, Charles, Katie, and Minnie, worked in far-



flung fields. Ezra became a Brotherhood leader in Christian education. Katie did much home mission work in the local district. Minnie, with her husband, J. Homer Bright, served many years in China under the General Mission Board. Their son, J. Calvin Bright, born in China, went back to that country, with his wife Harriett, he continuing until the communists imprisoned him; he was finally released and allowed to return to America. Subsequently the Brights went into pastoral work in Indiana. C. C. Sollenberger, Harvey Snell, and Merlin Cassell served on the home field.

Salem was host to Southern Ohio district conferences in 1920, 1931, 1942, and 1954; to the Women's Work meetings in 1945 and 1948; to a district Men's Work meeting in 1943 and to a Men's Work meeting in 1945. One of the Sunday-school institutes, held each winter, was at Salem in 1924.

From 1916 to 1923 Salem regularly held special Fourth of July services. There were homecomings during the years 1923 to 1931. Harvest meetings were held up to 1925. After several years of congregational Thanksgiving services Salem began joining in union services with surrounding churches in 1941.

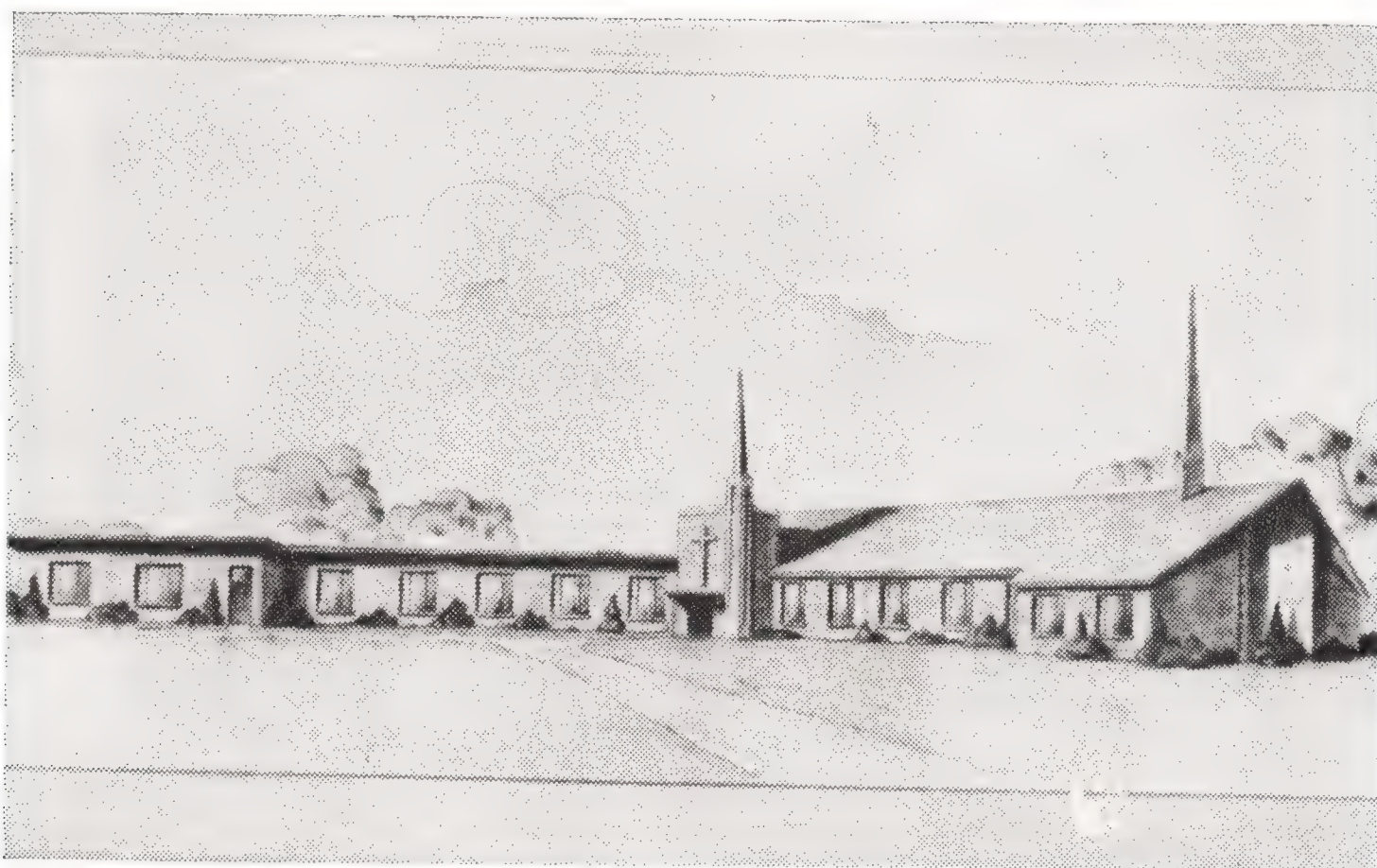
Reference has been made to the improvements made in 1917-18. Since that time additional Sunday-school rooms with a balcony, a vestibule, and a room for the ladies' aid were provided in 1920-21; a new heating plant was installed in 1922; new seats were placed in the auditorium in 1928; more Sunday-school rooms were added and improvements to the kitchen were made in 1925-26; restrooms were added in 1940; hardwood floors were laid in 1944. New pulpit furniture was dedicated in 1946. An electric organ with chimes was purchased in 1951. In late January 1955 the church house was destroyed by fire. Plans for a beautiful new structure have been made.

Salem has taken its place in district work. Women who have served in district Women's Work include Maggie Puterbaugh, Minnie Bright, Sarah Neher, and Katie Flory. Elder E. E. Brumbaugh has been a fieldman for the Brethren Home and F. C. Puterbaugh a trustee of the Home. Charles L. Flory



has moderated the district meeting and represented Southern Ohio on Standing Committee.

Naomi Flory, Esther Bright, Minnie Bright, J. Calvin Bright, and Harriett Bright have been camp leaders at Camp Sugar Grove.



Architect's Drawing of the New Salem Church

Serving on the District Youth Cabinet have been Merlin Cassell, Junior Cassell, Bernis Cassell, and Lowell Lightner. Don Barnes and Don Brumbaugh have participated in Brethren Volunteer Service.

In 1948 the congregation purchased a farm and parsonage, which, after improvements were made, was dedicated in 1949. The original cost was \$19,000. A gift of \$10,000, willed to the church by Perry Detrick, along with another fund of \$5,000, together with a parsonage fund previously raised, made the purchase easy.

The young people began a Lord's Acre project by raising small plots of popcorn. Later the men's work carried the project into more extensive efforts, the young people sharing. Since the purchase of the church farm the young people have raised sweet corn and sorghum to supplement their funds for district youth projects.

Salem is one of Southern Ohio's outstanding churches. Any district gathering scheduled at Salem practically assures



an overflow crowd. The church is a good host. Everything is always in readiness. The church is very near the center of Brethren population in Southern Ohio. In October 1954 the congregation observed the centennial of the building of the first church here. Under the leadership of Foster M. Bittinger the church continues to grow. It has four hundred eighty-six members.

### SIDNEY

The Sidney church's history roots back into that of the Mosquito Creek church, started perhaps in 1830, and located east of the city. Meetings were first held in homes and barns. Later a brick church, thirty by thirty-six feet, was erected. The membership was then around seventy-five. This house served until about 1895, when the Southern Ohio Mission Board



The Sidney Church

purchased a Methodist church building at the corner of Ohio and South streets in Sidney, since many members now lived in the city. Henry Longanecker, of North Star, had charge of



the work under the supervision of the Mission Board. There were then forty-seven members. P. B. Fitzwater was next called to direct the work. After he left there was an interim when preaching appointments were cared for by various ministers. Finally S. Z. Smith served as part-time and then as full-time pastor. It was during his leadership that it was decided to change locations. The new location was on Grove Street; the building was a cement block structure thirty-eight by fifty feet. The district provided the needed funds, above what the local members contributed. It was dedicated in August 1905, with Jacob Coppock giving the sermon. This building was enlarged, with a wing for Sunday-school rooms, in 1914. S. Z. Smith continued as pastor. In 1919 the church became self-supporting.

Pastoral dates were not furnished but the pastors, in succession, since 1920, have been S. Z. Smith, C. V. Coppock, R. H. Nicodemus, I. R. Beery, Jesse Bowser, S. S. Blough, C. C. Sollenberger, and Jesse Inman, the latter coming in 1951.

About 1925 the Loramie congregation disorganized and some thirty members transferred to the Sidney church.

Elders-in-charge at Sidney since 1920 include, in order, S. Z. Smith, C. V. Coppock, C. Walter Warstler, S. S. Blough, John Eikenberry, G. L. Wine, Moyne Landis, W. Glenn McFadden, Lester Fike, and J. C. Inman.

Deacons, both those who moved in and those installed, include Clem Ullery, Marion Davis, Ora Younker, Leslie Helman, Lowell Erbaugh, Clyde Albaugh, Robert Neher, Talmage Clayton, Harold Ullery, Clayton Kiracofe, Floyd Bedford, and Richard Helman.

The Sunday-school superintendents of record were Mrs. S. Z. Smith, Bessie Snyder, Clyde Albaugh, Leslie Helman, Talmage Clayton, Clayton Kiracofe, Paul Kies, Edward Fries, Grady Bridge, and Paul Kies.

Jack Kline was licensed to the ministry in November 1945.

The membership is two hundred forty-eight now. The congregation owns a modern parsonage located next to the church.

An electric organ was recently installed, the gift of Dr. and Mrs. Clayton Kiracofe.

For many years an outstanding annual occasion at the Sidney church was "Auto Day," when friends and relatives from over the district came in for morning and afternoon services and a basket dinner.

The church has joined liberally in Brethren Service projects and the Heifer Project.

### SPRINGFIELD

The first church at Springfield was a child of the Donnels Creek church, some seven miles west and north of the city. The earliest meetings held in the city seem to have been in 1886. In 1909 it was found that twenty-five members lived in Springfield who were interested in establishing a Brethren congregation here. Meetings were held in the homes. Later they were held in a Methodist chapel at Miami and George streets, Donnels Creek ministers preaching every two weeks. A Sunday school was organized in July 1912, being held in a store room on Main Street.

In 1913 the first church house was built on the corner of Columbia and Shaffer. It was thirty by forty feet and of frame construction. The next year the Mission Board of the district began giving direction and assistance to the new congregation. Omer B. Maphis was placed here as pastor for a year, followed by J. C. Inman, who was the pastor when the former history was written.

The church was formally organized as a separate congregation in September 1918 with about eighty charter members. J. O. Garst was the first elder-in-charge. At the beginning of the third decade of the twentieth century there was a membership of ninety-two and an average attendance in the Sunday school of sixty. The Mission Board owned the property at this time.

The church grew until it was felt that the small frame building was inadequate. In 1922 construction of a new building on the same site was begun. It was dedicated on



May 20, 1923, with J. W. Fidler preaching the sermon. A parsonage was erected and dedicated in June of 1927. It adjoins the church to the east. In 1940 the Mission Board of



The Springfield Church

the district gave title to all the property to the church and the congregation became self-supporting. John H. Good was the first elder chosen by the church.

The construction of the new brick building and the parsonage left the church with a mortgage. In November 1945 the mortgage note was burned ceremoniously at a morning service. Soon after this another building committee was set up to consider an addition to the building. Things progressed until in May 1952 work was begun on an addition to the north. The dedication of this new part took place on November 9, 1952.

As noted above, J. C. Inman was the pastor in 1920. He continued until December of 1924. Then S. Z. Smith became the pastor, serving until February 1926. After a short interim of preaching by visiting ministers, J. J. Johnson became the pastor in September 1926. He remained five years. John H. Good was called from Northwestern Ohio and led the



congregation until in September 1946, a total of fifteen years. Lester E. Fike came in 1946 and continued until called to East Dayton in March 1951. Otis Landis came on as pastor the following September and serves at this time.

During the supervision by the Mission Board, up to 1940, J. H. Eidemiller and H. M. Coppock acted in turn as elders-in-charge. John H. Good was chosen elder by the church in 1940, serving until 1946, when he left to become the pastor of the West Alexandria church. Lester E. Fike became elder and continued in that capacity until he went to East Dayton in 1951. Then Ross Noffsinger, pastor of the Donnels Creek church, took charge. Elder William J. Buckley lived in the Springfield congregation from 1932 to 1937.

Hadley Williamson was licensed by the church, 1935-37, and T. E. Hunter in 1944. J. H. Riley was ordained a minister in 1921. T. E. Hunter was relicensed in 1951.

The church has installed deacons as follows: T. E. Hunter, 1923; George Getz, 1928; Orin Ziegler, 1928; Harvey Grisso, Charles Pollock, and David Flora, 1930; Raymond Cool and Edgar Roof in 1946.

The Sunday-school superintendents since 1920 have been: Ira Hoak, Harry Taylor, Cyrus Carmen, Orin Ziegler, Harry Taylor, George Getz, Harvey Grisso, Gerald Young, Hadley Williamson, Gerald Young, George Getz, James Brannen, and David Studebaker.

The men's work group of the Springfield church joined with the men of Donnels Creek in purchasing ten heifers for relief; these heifers were shipped abroad in 1952. The women of the church have contributed much material aid for war-torn countries. The young people raised popcorn one year as a Lord's Acre project.

The church was represented in the district work when John H. Good served on the Mission Board and Lester E. Fike on the Ministerial Board.

Bessie Crim went from this congregation to the China mission field. Margaret Spangler has taught in the district junior camps. The pastor, Otis Landis, is a member of the District Board. Harvey Grisso is secretary of the District Men's Work Cabinet.



The midwinter youth conference of 1930 was held here. In 1948 Springfield was host to the children's workers' conference and in 1949 to the district ministers' meeting.

The church continues to grow. From a mission church at the beginning of 1940, it has grown into a congregation of two hundred seventy-three members with an annual budget of nearly \$10,000.

### STONELICK

This church is our oldest, perhaps organized in 1795 with fifteen charter members. In 1854 a brick church was erected, and by this time the name Stonelick had come to be generally



The Stonelick Church

used. The early history of this church contained some well-known Brethren names. But since this territory was not as desirable agriculturally as some farther north, many families moved. It also suffered heavily in the division of 1881.



When the former history closed, this church had twenty-five members and twenty-five in the Sunday school. C. V. Coppock was elder at this time.

Following 1920, C. G. Erbaugh and Jesse Noffsinger served as elder. In 1930 John M. Garst was called to be the pastor and elder and has continued in this dual capacity through the years.

The church membership never grew to over thirty-five. The youth of the families take employment in the large cities and soon locate there permanently. However, the present Sunday-school enrollment and attendance exceed any in the past. Howard Watkins is the Sunday-school superintendent.

In 1935 Harold Grossnickle was licensed to the ministry here.

Prior to 1930 two deacons were elected, Jesse Grossnickle and Stanley Pringle. Merle Grossnickle was elected a deacon in 1935.

Recently a new roof has been applied and a new floor laid in the church, a new pulpit installed, and other improvements made. The sum of \$1,000 was expended. Other improvements and enlargement of the facilities are being planned for the future.

### STRAIT CREEK

The Strait Creek church dates back to 1876, when the first building was erected here. It is in Highland County, near Sinking Springs. The establishment of the congregation here is perhaps largely due to the influence and efforts of John Garman. He was the father-in-law of Brother Landon West, who was later a leader in this parish.

The Mission Board of the district began to assist in and direct the work here in the early part of this century. R. H. Nicodemus was the first to be sent here as pastor. He was followed by J. A. R. Couser, who resided in the congregation. Then Van B. Wright took over, in a joint pastorate with other Highland County churches. When the period of the former



history closed he was still in charge and J. O. Garst was the presiding elder. There were thirty-five members.

The district records show the following for the succeeding years: Van B. Wright continued as pastor until December 31, 1924. Then Rolland Flory, who was the superintendent of schools at Sinking Springs, served until 1928. For one year J. Elmer Wagoner was in charge. He was followed by W. R.



The Strait Creek Church

Swinger, who continued until 1940, when Paul Wright became pastor. In 1945 Jacob and Mary Couser took charge, and they have continued until the present date.

The elders, in order, since the publication of the history have been: J. O. Garst, J. W. Fidler, R. N. Leatherman, H. M. Coppock, D. G. Berkebile, H. M. Coppock, E. Friend Couser, and H. H. Helman.

The records indicate that Lawrence Garman was licensed in 1945 and relicensed until 1949. The record of deacons elected was not available to the editor.



## TROTWOOD

The Trotwood church formerly comprised territory within the Fort McKinley and Happy Corner churches, which, in turn, formerly comprised the Lower Stillwater congregation. So many of the members of these two congregations lived in and near Trotwood that they asked to have a church home in the village; it was agreed that they could build a house of their own. Erection was begun and completed in 1899, and the new church house was dedicated in January 1900, with Elder D. S. Filbrun delivering the dedication sermon.

Some six years later the congregation became a separate organization and included territory, not only of the two adjacent churches, but also some from the Bear Creek congregation. Elder John Calvin Bright was the moderator for the organization meeting and Elder John Smith was made elder of the new church. Other officers of the newly organized group included John Kuns, secretary, Samuel Vaniman, treasurer, and Jacob Kuns, Grant Stoner, and A. W. Shafer, trustees. The new organization started with one hundred twenty members and a very active Sunday school.

After presiding for one year Elder John Smith was succeeded by Elder L. A. Bookwalter, who was in charge until 1909. That year Elder D. M. Garver, who had moved to Trotwood from the Lower Twin congregation, was elected elder; he served continuously in that capacity until his death in 1926. From 1918 until just two months before his decease he also carried on the pastoral work of the church, first as part-time and later as full-time pastor.

In September 1926 J. F. Burton became pastor of the Trotwood church, serving until 1932. He was succeeded by William D. Fisher, from Pennsylvania. In 1936 Brother Fisher resigned and another pastor named Fisher, this time E. R. Fisher of the Four Mile church, Southern Indiana, was installed. After a pastorate of fourteen years he was followed by Paul W. Kinsel, a native of Southern Ohio, who had been serving the church in Frederick, Maryland. During the years of this able pastoral leadership the Trotwood church has had a rapid and consistent growth, until from the original mem-



bership of one hundred twenty it has enlarged to comprise five hundred thirty-eight members.

The church has ordained four men to the eldership through the years: William Swinger, 1914; Frank Eby, 1926;



Architect's Drawing of the New Trotwood Church

Orion Erbaugh, 1940; and Mark Shellhaas, 1946. Norman Conover was ordained a minister in 1911.

Upon the death of Elder Garver, J. F. Burton, the pastor, became elder, serving until 1930. Then Elder J. W. Fidler held the office for one year, after which Hugh Cloppert presided until 1934. At that time William Hollinger took over; he was succeeded by Foster M. Bittinger in 1951. Raymond R. Peters became the moderator in 1954.

Other ministers and elders who have resided in the congregation include Granville Minnich, William Swinger, C. M. Bantz, and Emanuel Shank.

Elizabeth Weybright Oberholtzer, missionary in China for many years, came from the Trotwood church.

The church will soon be ready for the dedication of a remodeled and greatly enlarged house of worship.

The parsonage, built in 1926, stands next to the church.

The congregation was host to Sunday-school institutes in 1909, 1921, and 1928, and entertained the Southern Ohio district conference in 1913, 1927, and 1939.

The Trotwood church has often been represented on district boards, General Brotherhood Board offices and committees, and on the Standing Committee, and, in the person of Elder D. M. Garver, in the moderatorship of Annual Conference. Paul W. Kinsel, the pastor, is a member of the District Board, and Joe Flora is the Brotherhood Fund representative for the district. J. C. Flora is a member of the Historical Committee responsible for this volume.

## TROY

Members contributing to the earliest membership of the Troy church came from the Lost Creek-Casstown group and from the Stillwater-Covington area. The Southern Ohio Mission Board began to direct the work in Troy in 1910. But before that date, in August 1909, an interested group here got together in a council meeting and effected an organization with thirty-five members, which included one minister, Oran S. Yount, and one deacon, W. S. Bashore. Jacob Coppock was the first elder-in-charge. The new organization received full recognition as a congregation of Southern Ohio in 1914.

The Mission Board of the district purchased a property, which had been a Methodist church, in 1911. It was located at McKaig Avenue and Monroe Street. Oran S. Yount, the only resident minister, carried on the pulpit work with the assistance of visiting ministers. Afterward various lay workers and ministers and elders gave their efforts to the cause in Troy. I. G. Blocher was the elder-in-charge as the previous history went to press.

The church building was remodeled in 1919 and rededicated on June 22, Otho Winger giving the sermon. By this time the membership was eighty and the average attendance at Sunday school was thirty-one.



J. O. Garst became elder-in-charge in 1920. Hugh Miller acted as pastor in 1921-23. Then the work fell to J. O. Garst and Roy Karns, perhaps up to 1928. After an interim with visiting ministers, Charles Flory became part-time pastor in



The Troy Church

1930 in a joint parish with the Piqua church. This arrangement continued until 1941. In September 1941 J. C. Flora began his interim service, which continued until December of that year. Then in January of 1942 John Kneisly took over and continued until July. A call was extended to W. Glenn McFadden, just graduating from Bethany Seminary, to be the full-time pastor. He began his work here in July 1942, remaining as the church's leader until he answered a call in 1950 to the Elgin church, Illinois. The congregation then called Murray Wagner, of Virginia, who moved to Troy in August 1950. He is the present pastor of the Troy church.

The church building was again remodeled in 1932, with a new basement, kitchen, furnace room, and modern facilities. Changes were made in the balcony. A rededication service

was held on October 2 with D. G. Berkebile giving the sermon. Still further remodeling and decorating was done in 1944. Another dedication was held in November with Raymond R. Peters, of Elgin, Illinois, then the secretary of the Board of Christian Education, giving the sermon.

The membership had now reached over two hundred and the Sunday-school attendance averaged one hundred forty-one. The congregation withdrew from Mission Board support in 1945, becoming a self-sustaining congregation.

Almost immediately plans were initiated for finding a new location and building a more commodious structure. It was while W. Glenn McFadden was pastor that the plans matured. A lot was purchased in the 1400 block of West Main Street. Plans for the building were adopted and a ground-breaking ceremony was held on May 21, 1950. The resignation of Brother McFadden had been accepted in March and a new leader to carry the members through this major project became necessary. As noted above, Murray Wagner was called. An installation service was held on September 3, 1950. The church building on McKaig was sold to the Grace Baptist congregation and possession was given in January 1950. Services were held in the Edwards school until it was possible to assemble in the new building.

The work on the new building was hindered by the weather and a lack of materials. Everything was dormant from Thanksgiving 1950 to Easter 1951. But when conditions improved, the members—men, women and children—went to work. An enormous amount of volunteer labor went into the construction. The cornerstone was laid on September 3, 1951, in an appropriate ceremony. The structure is of brick veneer on concrete block. The appointments of the interior are unusually beautiful. Adequate parking space is provided around the church. The dedication was held on September 7, 1952, President V. F. Schwalm of Manchester College giving the dedication sermon. So another most beautiful and impressive house of God has become a reality in Southern Ohio.

A parsonage was purchased in 1942 at 1418 Peters Road.

Since J. O. Garst, who served as elder from 1920 to 1924, the elders-in-charge have been D. G. Berkebile, 1924-36; J. H.



Eidemiller, 1936-39; Oliver Royer, 1939-41; Ray O. Shank, 1941 to the present time. Since 1949 Frank Brower has been designated as assistant elder.

The church licensed Dale Gibboney in 1942 and installed him into the ministry in 1945. Eugene Palsgrove was licensed in 1944; Mohler Filbrun, 1944 to 1948; James Tyler and Robert McFadden in 1948; Donald Matthews in 1954.

Carl Lehman was ordained a minister in 1930 and an elder in 1941; at this latter time Obed Hovatter was also ordained to the eldership. James Tyler was ordained to the ministry in 1951. Besides the ministers already mentioned, D. D. Funderburg moved into the Troy congregation in 1949.

Deacons installed since 1920 include E. W. Brumbaugh, Victor Smith, and Emmert Flory, 1936; Lowell Noffsinger and Earl Shroyer, 1945; and Mohler Filbrun, Verl Olwine, and Gilbert Lightner, 1951.

The Sunday-school superintendents have been O. S. Yount, Charles Brill, E. W. Brumbaugh, Frank Helmick, Mary Gnodle, and H. E. Royer.

In September 1949, the church celebrated the fortieth anniversary with a homecoming. Desmond W. Bittinger was the guest speaker.

The church was host to the district ministerial meeting of 1945, and at other times to other gatherings of smaller numbers.

The membership at present is two hundred fifty-five.

Brother and Sister McFadden served as camp directors; Brother McFadden was for several years a member of the Board of Christian Education of the district and was also moderator of District Conference. E. W. Brumbaugh was a member of the Board of Christian Education. Frank Brower was a member of the Apportionment Committee of the district. Helen Noffsinger edited the *Southern Ohio Herald* for a while. D. D. Funderburg has been serving as district director of leadership training. Mary Gnodle has directed and taught in vacation Bible schools. Eugene Palsgrove participated in Brethren Volunteer Service.

## TURKEY CREEK

The origin of the Turkey Creek church, Kentucky, is indicated by the following, taken from the district meeting minutes of 1947:

“Turkey Creek, Kentucky

“April 20, 1947

“To the district conference of Southern District of Ohio in session at the Oakland church, Gettysburg, Ohio.

“Dear Brethren and Sisters in Council: We, the members of the Church of the Brethren living in and around Turkey Creek, Kentucky, on the Kentucky side and around Williamson, West Va., on the West Va. side, do hereby petition the Southern District of Ohio to grant us to organize our membership into a new and separate organization from our respective organizations, namely, Wolfe Creek and Rock House, the new organization to be called Turkey Creek.

“Signed,

Keither Wilson, elder

Fayette Fields, minister

Garland Wilson, treasurer

Lizzie Wilson, member

Opal Fields, member

Ethel G. Chapman, member

Hessie Wilson, member

Sadie Duncan, member

Belle Stepp, member

Nannie Stepp, member

“Petition granted by district conference.”

The church building was dedicated December 7, 1947, Ray O. Shank giving the dedicatory sermon. There were forty members at this time. The Men's Work of the district furnished funds and volunteer labor for the structure. The amount of \$3,000 was set aside in 1946 for the project. Brother Roscoe Inman directed the construction.

Howard Erbaugh became the first pastor on a part-time basis, with the local ministers assisting. Carl Lauer, formerly pastor at Circleville, became the next pastor in 1950. He was the first resident pastor. In September 1953 he was succeeded



by Kenneth Fisher, of Southern Illinois, the present pastor.

A parsonage was completed in 1950, the cost being borne by the local group, the General Brotherhood Board, and



The Turkey Creek Church

the District Mission Board. The General Brotherhood Board at present furnishes the pastor's salary. The work here is supervised by the District Board through the Commission on Ministry, Missions and Church Extension.

Chester George, chairman of Men's Work, who passed away October 30, 1948, was honored by the congregation by the dedication of the pulpit and two chairs to his memory.

The present membership is fifty-one. Dolar Ritchey, of the District Board, is the presiding elder.

## UNION CITY

The original congregation that developed into the Union City church was known as Greenville Creek, whose earliest recorded activities date back to 1833. An organization was effected in September 1851, with seventy-three members living in a rather wide area. Emanuel Flory was perhaps the first

elder-in-charge. Thomas Wenrick, the first minister to be ordained elder (1865), was given oversight of the congregation for nearly twenty years. Another elder long presiding over Greenville Creek was W. K. Simmons—from 1887 to 1912. B. F. Sharp succeeded him and was in charge when the former history came out.

For over three decades services were held in homes, barns, schoolhouses, and forests.

In December 1868, at an important council meeting, it was decided they should build a church north of Union City, and also that the name should be changed to Union City. This church was dedicated in October of 1870.

Following this the Greenville Creek territory began to be divided into four other congregations. First was the Bear Creek church near Portland, Indiana. Then in 1891 the Pleasant Valley church was created to the north and east of the city of Union City. In 1903 the Poplar Grove church was formed to the south.

In 1911 a Sunday school was organized in Union City. Preaching services followed soon. In 1917 the erection of a church building was begun; it was dedicated in 1918. At the close of the 1920 history the congregation was still holding services in the building in the country erected in 1870. The congregation numbered one hundred thirty-one. B. F. Sharp was in charge as elder. W. P. Noffsinger was overseeing the preaching.

In 1921 D. R. Murray came as the first pastor and remained two years. An interim followed without a pastor. In 1924 Ivan L. Erbaugh began his work at Union City; he continued until 1934. R. N. Leatherman was called in 1934 and had served only two years when he was suddenly stricken and died. D. G. Berkebile followed in 1936 and led the congregation for thirteen years, or until 1949. In that year Kenneth Long was called from Indiana to be the pastor; he is ministering there at this time.

The eldership changed more often. B. F. Sharp was in charge of the congregation until 1921, making nine years consecutively. Charles L. Flory served from 1921 to 1924; Ivan Erbaugh, 1924-30; B. F. Sharp again, 1930-31. G. O. Stutsman



of Greenville followed, 1934-39. Then Roy Honeyman became the presiding elder, remaining until 1941. D. G. Berkebile served again from 1941 to 1949. E. S. Hollinger began in 1949 and still presides over the Union City congregation.



The Union City Church

Other ministers not already mentioned who have resided or still reside in the congregation include Charles Stocksdale, Earl McFarland, Arthur Dodge, and William Sell.

The only ordination to the eldership recorded since 1920 was that of Theodore Eley in 1924.

Six deacons in all have been installed here: Roy Early in 1925, Warren Thornhill in 1934; Charles Wenner and Claud Mikesell in 1935; Ira Mikesell and John Keltner in 1948.

The Sunday-school superintendents, in succession, have been Charles Mikesell, Charles Stocksdale, Don Weimer, Charles Mikesell, Ira Mikesell, Orla Huffman, John Keltner, Ira Mikesell, John Keltner, and Walter Brumbaugh.

The one-hundredth anniversary of the organization was observed in 1951. The country house erected in 1870 was sold and torn down in 1934.



Lois Netzley Shull, with her husband, Ernest, went as a missionary to India in 1946. D. G. Berkebile has been on both the Ministerial Board and the Mission Board of Southern Ohio. Rachel Keltner served on the District Women's Work Cabinet. Theora Oswalt is director of intermediate work for Southern Ohio, and Kenneth Long, the present pastor, was a member of and recording secretary for the newly formed District Board. He formerly was a member of the Board of Christian Education.

In addition several Union City men have been attendants on cattle boats delivering relief heifers. Robert Mikesell was in Brethren Volunteer Service. The men of the congregation have contributed six heifers for relief.

The membership of the Union City congregation is recorded as two hundred forty-seven. The church continues to grow.

### WEST ALEXANDRIA

The Twin church had its origin in the first decade of the nineteenth century, perhaps 1805 or 1806. It comprised parts of six counties. It was divided into Upper Twin and Lower Twin in 1830. The names became Upper Twin and Sugar Hill in 1913. At that time Sugar Hill included also Tom's Run and Middletown. Sugar Hill, located one-half mile out of West Alexandria, and Tom's Run, located four miles east, became the West Alexandria church in 1923. The Tom's Run church house was sold and was then converted into a dwelling. The Sugar Hill house was dismantled and parts of it were used in the construction of the West Alexandria church, at Oak and Central streets, which was dedicated in April 1924. At the close of the former Southern Ohio history Sugar Hill had a membership of one hundred thirty and the combined average Sunday-school attendance at the two houses was ninety-one. The elder-in-charge was J. Franklin Brubaker, who was followed by B. F. Petry, 1920 to 1935.

R. N. Leatherman became the first pastor in the new location. Here he ministered from 1923 to 1929, also acting



as elder-in-charge. John H. Good, who was installed by this congregation in 1919, became the next pastor, serving from 1929 to 1931. Having been ordained to the eldership while in his former pastorate, Stony Creek, Northwestern Ohio, he was also made elder-in-charge for the period of his pastorate. In 1931 he answered the call to the Springfield church. Jonas Groff, who had been licensed by this church in 1931 and installed in 1932, next became pastor. He continued in this capacity for ten years, until 1941. He was ordained an elder by the church in 1934 and in 1935 began work in the dual role of pastor and elder, continuing as elder to the present time. During the interim, 1931 to 1935, N. B. Wine served as elder. Paul Kinsel was called to the pastorate in 1941 and served until 1946. In 1946 John H. Good returned to minister to the church again as pastor, this time on a full-time basis; he continues at this time.

In the meantime the indebtedness on the new church building had been canceled, and in 1946 the congregation purchased a lot adjoining the church edifice, in contemplation of erecting a parsonage here in the not-too-far-distant future. In 1949 an electric organ, with chimes, was installed.

Besides those named above, other ministers, who have resided here include Noah Beery, lettered out in 1922, and Noah W. Erbaugh, who was deceased in 1937. Other ministers licensed here include Quentin Evans in 1942 and Earl W. Shank in 1951. Jonas Groff's is the only ordination recorded.

Deacons formerly installed and continuing active into the period of this history included Arthur Henry and Harvey Erbaugh. Installations since 1920 were those of Omer Erbaugh and George Kempton, 1924; Walter Campbell, Russel Landis, and Roy Brower, 1931; George Cooper, 1936; Paul Stebbins and Ulysses Whitehead, 1952.

Those in charge of the Sunday school have been Harvey Erbaugh, George Kempton, Henry Landis, Jonas Groff, Earl Riegel, Stanley Buchanan, Lawrence Cooper, and Paul Kinsey. Others may have been in office in periods for which the records are obscure.

Martha Landis and Ida Kempton each did home mission work while holding membership at West Alexandria. This



church co-operates with the other Brethren churches of Preble County in supporting Kathryn Kiracofe on the India mission field.

Women's work and men's work organizations in this congregation are active. The intermediates co-operate with the intermediate worker for the district.



The West Alexandria Church

Martha Landis, Mrs. Ruth Landis, and Mrs. Jessie Hill have assisted in camp work. Robert Baker has been a member of the District Youth Cabinet. U. D. Whitehead served as song leader in the adult camp. Stanley Buchanan was a member of the Auditing Committee of the district. Jonas Groff was associated with the Historical Committee of the district. Paul Kinsel was on the Board of Christian Education while a pastor here. The pastor, John H. Good, is a member of the District Board.

On July 5, 1953, the church participated in the celebration of its sesquicentennial by presenting a pageant depicting the organization of the first Church of the Brethren in Preble



County. It was assisted by the Church of the Brethren and the Brethren church of Gratis.

In 1949 the church celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the dedication of the church building.

West Alexandria has made regular contributions toward Brethren Service and other relief programs outside its own borders. The congregation now comprises two hundred forty-one members.

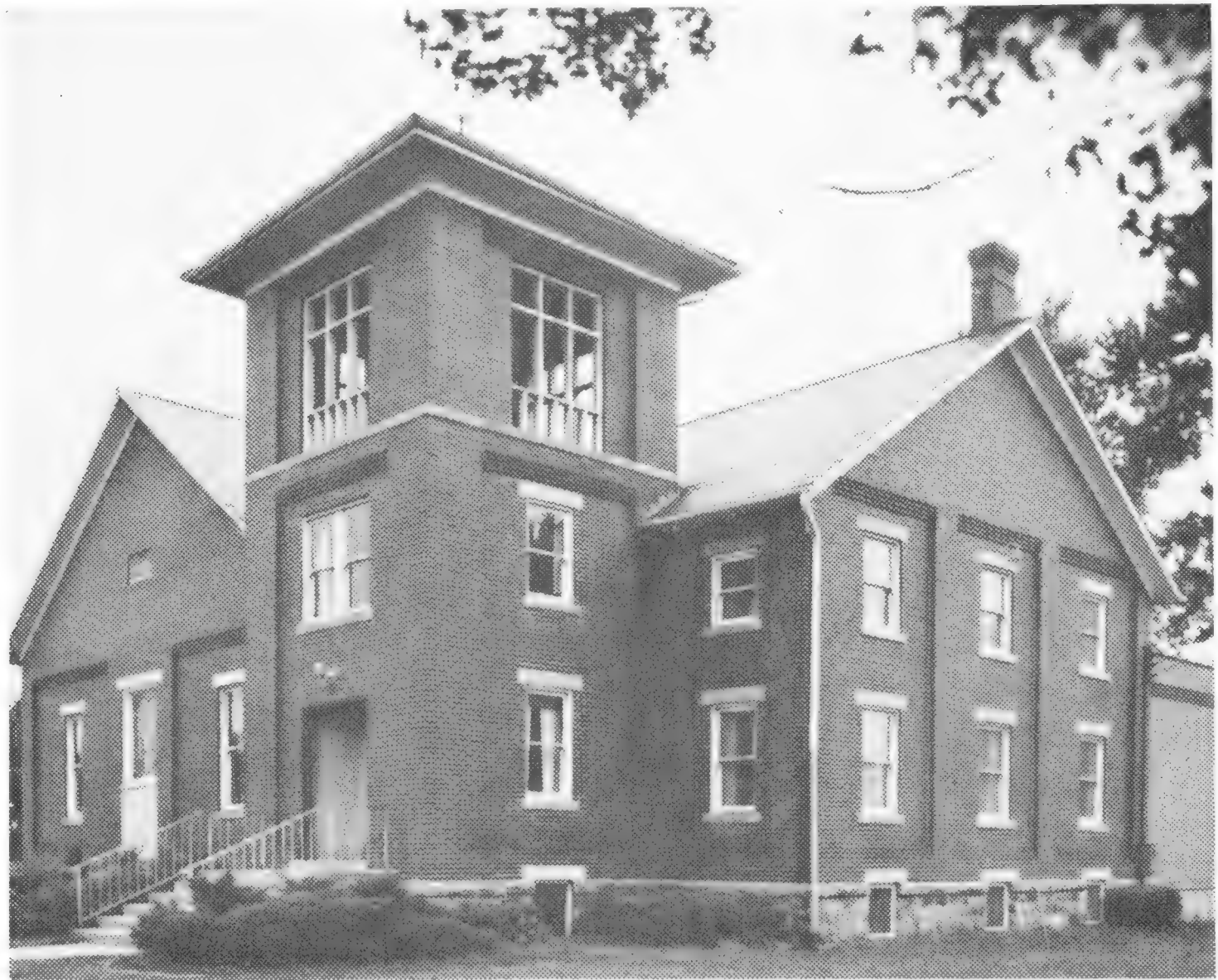
### WEST CHARLESTON

The West Charleston church was originally the Hickory Grove church, which, in turn was formed out of territory belonging to the Donnels Creek congregation. Hickory Grove was organized in 1830, and about thirty years later began holding services at West Charleston; however, it was not until 1903 that a permanent edifice was erected. The church was enlarged in 1914-15, providing more adequate Sunday-school facilities. Additional improvements were made in 1947 and 1949, providing modern restrooms and a kitchen. The last service in the old Hickory Grove church, which had been erected in 1854, was held in September 1917, in which year the name was changed to West Charleston. Just prior to this it was agreed to change the east boundary, giving some of its territory to the New Carlisle congregation, which change, of course, moved some of the membership to that church.

Up to 1881 the congregation had a very substantial growth but in that year lost some thirty members in the division. Starting with one hundred members, Hickory Grove took on new growth. Some well-known men were identified with its early history, including Elder Jacob Coppock, Henry Gump, and D. S. Filbrun. Elder Coppock was the church's first delegate to Annual Conference.

It was in 1919 that West Charleston came under regular pastoral leadership. In that year the church called Brother and Sister J. C. Flora, of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, to full-time work in the congregation. Ray O. Shank succeeded Brother Flora in 1925, the latter going to Pleasant Hill. In 1927 West

Charleston began to be served by part-time and supply ministers, continuing thus until 1943. Men who assisted in those years included J. C. Flora, Walter Hawke, Norman Wine, Paul Kinsel, C. V. Coppock, and Ivan L. Eikenberry. In 1943 the last-named became the full-time pastor and was succeeded



The West Charleston Church

in 1944 by Merlin Cassell. Clarence Priser ministered from 1945 to 1947 as stated supply preacher. Then Kenneth Frantz took over as full-time pastor, remaining until 1951, when Roy Teach became pastor.

In 1948 West Charleston purchased a parsonage in Tipp City, but, deciding afterward that it would be best to have the parsonage near the church, sold it and began construction of a new structure on land purchased adjoining the church. It was completed in 1953.

Elders who have presided over this congregation are as follows: Jacob Coppock, 1905-24; J. C. Flora, 1924-25; D. M. Garver, 1925-26; Ray O. Shank, 1926-27; H. M. Coppock, 1928-31; J. C. Flora, 1931-54; D. D. Funderburg, 1954—.



Elders ordained by West Charleston include David Shellabarger, about 1837; Henry Rubsom and Adam Stinebarger, 1858; Joseph Arnold, 1879; Henry Gump, 1886; Jacob Coppock, 1899; D. S. Filbrun, 1900; A. S. Neher and John Gump, 1911; Elmer Brumbaugh, 1916; W. W. Peters, 1919; J. C. Flora, 1920; Ray O. Shank, 1926; Ivan L. Eikenberry, 1944.

The church has called into the ministry the following: David Landis, 1835; Joseph Arnold, 1858; John Christ, 1860; Samuel Coppock, 1866; D. F. Yount, 1873, Henry Gump, 1880; Jacob Coppock, 1881; D. S. Filbrun, 1883; S. S. Gump, 1893; John Gump and Elmer Brumbaugh, 1900; A. S. Neher, 1904; Howard Eidemiller, 1907; W. W. Peters, 1910; Roy Karns, 1920; Donald Mikula, 1953.

West Charleston has graciously shared some of her workers with other fields of service. Fern Coppock, daughter of Elder Jacob Coppock, became the wife of Galen Walker, and with him has provided pastoral leadership for churches in Pennsylvania and California. W. W. Peters has served on the General Brotherhood Board, on the faculty of Manchester College, as president of Mount Morris College and of McPherson College, and as a Brethren Service administrator in Europe. Mary Flora, daughter of Elder and Mrs. J. C. Flora, has since 1945 been, with her husband, Ivan Eikenberry, on the mission field in Nigeria, where he works as director of education on the mission staff.

The church has also shared in the district activities. Mary Flora Eikenberry served on the B.Y.P.D. Cabinet and she and her husband were managers of Camp Sugar Grove in 1943. J. C. Flora, who is chairman of the Historical Committee, has been on various district committees. Emmert Studebaker is now a trustee of the Brethren Home at Greenville. D. S. Filbrun was a member of the Standing Committee in 1909. West Charleston was host to the Sunday-school and ministerial meeting in 1922 and to the women's conference in 1945. The pastor, Roy Teach, is the district secretary.

The present membership of the congregation is one hundred thirteen.

## WEST MILTON

The origins of the West Milton congregation were in what was called the Brush Creek church, which comprised some of the territory in and around West Milton. Phillip Younce, who came to Southern Ohio in 1813 from North Carolina, locating east of the village, near Nashville, was a leader of the fellowship in the early days. In 1869 the Brush Creek congregation, which later became Pitsburg and Painter Creek, ceded the territory to the Salem church. It is known that there were at least three preaching points in this ceded area in the days just prior to the close of the nineteenth century, one of them in a Methodist church in the village of West Milton. In 1898 the interest in the West Milton field led the Salem congregation to appoint a committee to investigate the advisability of erecting a church at West Milton. The committee advised the purchase of property and the erection of a building there. The present site was secured and a building, thirty-six by fifty-eight feet, of brick construction, was dedicated in February 1900, with Elder D. M. Garver giving the dedicatory address and following with a series of evangelistic meetings.

A Sunday school was organized almost at once, and regular preaching services were held, mostly by ministers from the Salem church. Some well-known men were soon identified with the West Milton congregation, among them Jesse K. Brumbaugh, Ezra Flory, J. Henry Showalter and S. A. Blessing.

Along in 1908 the West Milton brethren petitioned the parent church, Salem, for the privilege of forming a separate organization. It was granted, and the new congregation was organized with Jesse K. Brumbaugh the first presiding elder. There were ninety charter members. The Salem church deeded the church property to the new fellowship and a dividing line between the two congregations was agreed upon. An addition thirty-four by forty feet was built to the church in 1912 and dedicated in February 1913. This provided more auditorium room, eight Sunday-school rooms and a ladies' aid room. Plans are being made at present for a remodeled or new structure.



As we come to the beginning of the third decade of the twentieth century we find a congregation of one hundred forty members, with S. A. Blessing presiding, having served since 1905. The Sunday school had an average attendance of one hundred.



The West Milton Church

In 1937 Elder Blessing was succeeded by Hugh Cloppert. He was followed in 1941 by H. M. Coppock. Elder Roy Teach took over in 1943 and continued until 1947, when Moyne Landis became presiding elder.

The preaching appointments following 1920 were filled by S. A. Blessing and some visiting ministers. In 1927 Elder I. J. Kreider moved to West Milton from Indiana and became the first full-time, supported pastor. He remained until the fall of 1930. Then the local ministerial board secured speakers from various places to fill the appointments, especially using Galen B. Royer of New Carlisle a great deal.

Harold Helstern became part-time pastor in 1937 and continued until 1941. Then Frank Eby was secured for full-time work beginning in 1944; he labored with the church



until September 1948. He was succeeded in February 1949 by the present pastor, Perry L. Huffaker, from Pennsylvania, a member of the Brotherhood committee for the compilation of the *Brethren Hymnal*.

Granville Minnich and J. P. Miller have been resident elders since 1900. Ministers in the same period include J. P. Robbins and Mark Shellhaas. Harold Helstern was ordained in 1939, while serving as pastor. W. J. Barnhart was licensed in 1926, Leonard Lutz and Mohler Filbrun in 1943, and Joel Thompson in 1951.

Deacons installed since 1920 include B. F. Studebaker, 1925; Howard Dohner, 1927; and Ralph Mishler and Wilbur Erbaugh, 1937.

Sunday-school superintendents, in succession, have been: Howard Dohner, S. C. Gnagey, B. F. Studebaker, S. C. Gnagey, Jacob Lowry, Mark Shellhaas, Wilbur Erbaugh, Jacob Lowry, Paul Studebaker, Wilbur Erbaugh, Harry Peters, George Thompson, and Harold Oren.

West Milton built a beautiful modern parsonage at the south edge of the village on Highway 48 and dedicated it in 1949. Extensive remodeling of the church is under consideration.

Besides the regular organizations of a local church, this church has a mothers' study club; a temple choir, composed of adults; a chapel choir, made up of young people; a cherub choir, comprising preschool children; and a junior choir, ages seven to thirteen; a ladies' chorus; and a men's chorus.

The congregation observed its twenty-fifth anniversary in 1933 and the fiftieth anniversary of the dedication of the church in 1950. It was host to district conference in 1938 and in 1950, to the Women's Work meeting of 1938, and to the midwinter youth conference of 1939.

B. F. Studebaker was for twenty-five years a trustee of the Brethren Home at Greenville and for one term a member of the General Mission Board. S. C. Gnagey gave ten years of service on the Home Trustee Board. Mark Shellhaas was a camp director. Ralph Mishler served on the Southern Ohio Auditing Committee. In Brethren Service the work of West Milton has reached beyond its borders, sending wheat to



Europe and contributing heifers, clothing, and supplies for relief abroad; also it was represented in person by Betty Sotzing, who spent nearly two years in Europe. The pastor, Perry L. Huffaker, is a member of the District Board.

The membership numbers three hundred ninety-five.

### WOLFE CREEK

The Wolfe Creek church dates back to about the third quarter of the nineteenth century. C. Walter Warstler, who visited the church here in 1941, writes: "They have a group of some sixty-five enthusiastic members. The church here dates back about sixty-five years."

The first contacts with the church by this district occurred in 1940, when representatives of our Mission Board met with the Home Missions secretary from Elgin and brethren from Tennessee and Kentucky to consider accepting supervision of mission points in eastern Kentucky.

The records available show that Keither Wilson was the elder here from 1944 until 1953. He was succeeded by Dolar Ritchey.

Residing here were John H. Fields, a minister, and Fayette Fields, who was licensed in about 1946 and ordained an elder on September 12, 1948. He later moved to Wichita, Kansas. John H. Fields did most of the pastoring of this field.

The congregation, now numbering fifty-four members, has a very adequate church edifice.

## 2. NEW CENTERS

### OHIO STATE STUDENT CENTER

A student center was organized at Ohio State University, Columbus, and began operation with the fall of 1954. The location is just north of the campus, at 75 West Norwich Street. Brother and Sister Dwight Farringer, he being a graduate student, are in charge. Over fifty Church of the Brethren and Brethren students in the university there have access to the facilities and can co-operate in the activities.

### THE DAYTON AREA

The comity committee of the Church Federation of Greater Dayton has given the district the privilege of locating two Brethren churches in the area of Greater Dayton, one south of the city in Kettering Village, and another north between Northridge and Vandalia. The very large expansion of the areas prompted the District Board to strive to serve the developing population.

Meetings have been held in the Kettering area and plans are underway to put a leader here, looking forward to the erection of a building and the organization of a church.

The northern section is under study but no definite location has been selected for new work there.

There are Brethren families living in both these areas, holding their membership in Dayton and suburban Dayton churches.



### 3. THE CHURCHES LEFT BEHIND

Throughout many parts of the district one may find abandoned church buildings standing as a testimony to our zealous members, to misguided choices of locations, or to such growth and interest as to require two congregations to be formed from one. In some instances better locations due to shift in population or change in residence of many members was responsible for the change in the location of the house of worship. However, in not every instance was the church abandoned as a place of worship, some of the buildings being purchased by or turned over to other denominations.

One of the early congregations to be abandoned was in Greene County, near Gunnersville. The new work was sponsored by the Donnels Creek members about 1880. It was continued for several years, then was taken over by the Mission Board. This board reports an expenditure of \$35.20 for this congregation in 1911. Just when the work was discontinued seems not to be a matter of record.

Another venture that proved not to be successful was in the territory north and northeast of Hillsboro. This involved three locations. The earliest of these dates back into the 1870's, when a house, known as Fall Creek, was built some eight miles east of Hillsboro. This building has been replaced by a dwelling on the same ground. Another location was some eight or ten miles to the northeast of this one; it was known as Twin Valley. This lasted a few years and then the building was converted into a dwelling. The third location was two miles south of Highland; it was called the Lexington church. The last report of district efforts here was made in 1930. This building still stands and is in good repair. A sort of homecoming is held here each year. In the cemetery back of this latter church are the graves of many whose names were familiar in the early days—among them the Majors, Thomas

and Sarah. She will be remembered as the pioneer Brethren woman preacher.

In connection with this field should be mentioned another building once used by the Brethren near this location, not as a church but as an academy. This was at New Vienna, ten miles to the northwest of Hillsboro. It was in operation from 1861 to 1864, with James Quinter in charge. Financial reverses caused its abandonment.

While we are surveying the southern field some other abandoned church houses, in Highland and Adams counties, should be included. In 1898 a second house of worship was erected on the same spot a short distance from Dunkinsville, in central Adams County. It was known as the Brush Creek or the Ridge church. This building still stands and is used by the Christ in Christian Union people. The Mission Board was authorized by district meeting of 1915 to sell the building. In the cemetery adjoining the church lawn lie many persons who were linked with the cause of our church in this locality.

Not very far away from the Ridge church, and nearer to the famous Serpent Mound, stands another building which once housed the May Hill congregation, organized in 1880. By the side of it is another cemetery holding the bodies of well-known Brethren members. Here again annual homecomings are held and at these meetings the offerings lifted are used to maintain the building, which is in good repair. This is in Adams County, as the reader would note.

In Adams County, some miles to the east of West Union, the county seat, stands another abandoned church which reverted to the original farm, as a feature of the deed, in event it was not used for church services. It was known as the Cassell's Run church.

While the churches mentioned above had their days of activity in much earlier times, this one was erected in 1914, as a branch of the Marble Furnace church. Work began here in the 1880's, preaching being by Brethren who occasionally visited the community. It attained a membership of over fifty and then began to decline. There were forty-three members when the house was dedicated. The cost was five hundred dollars. There is record of its use as late as 1935. It reverted



to the original land when services ceased. It stands by a very little used roadway and is in a very bad state of repair.

A fire in July of 1921 removed one of the landmarks of Brethren efforts in Highland County, the White Oak or Hollowtown church building. It dated back to the 1850's, the exact date of its erection being obscure. It was the one Church of the Brethren with a belfry and a bell. Its parish was taken over by the Church of Christ. It was reported disorganized in 1930.

As we turn to Ross and Fayette counties, there seem to have been two churches which early became extinct, and we have no record of the status of the buildings. One was Paint Creek, located a few miles west of Frankfort, Ross County. Another which was earlier was known as Fairview; it was located farther west over the Fayette County line. Then another abandoned church represents an unusual adventure for our people, the organization of a colored church. This was at Frankfort. The work really never got underway; the Negro leaders died and the house was sold in 1917.

Now to Fairfield County for another church left behind. A church building was erected in 1856-57 just south of Bremen, Ohio, perhaps over the line in Hocking County. It housed the Rush Creek congregation, which dates back to 1809. At first it was a part of the Northeastern District. The Mission Board of Southern Ohio took it over in 1889 and supervised the work until 1902. It was abandoned as a place of Brethren efforts in 1914. A brick structure was erected in Bremen in 1909. Interest was then directed here. In 1911 it became self-supporting, but in 1921 it came back under the care of the Mission Board. In 1922 it was pastored jointly with Circleville. The last mention of preaching here was in 1925. A report of the sale of the building to the Citizens Realty Company was made in 1926.

At Summerford, Madison County, stands another building, used now as a store, which was built by the Brethren, the second at this place. Work here began over a century ago. In 1879 a house was built. In 1908 this was torn down and another was built on the site. But by 1917 it seemed evident

that a permanent, ongoing work could not be realized; so the work was closed and the building sold.

Two churches were abandoned in northern Darke County—Ash Grove and North Star. The first was just north of Coldwater, the latter just east of North Star. They were previously one congregation and a part of the Oakland church territory. The Ash Grove church was built in 1896. Ash Grove last reported its Sunday-school attendance in 1927, when it averaged fourteen members. A report of the disorganization was made in 1930. The North Star church was erected in 1883. The two churches, sixteen miles apart, were organized separately in 1916. By 1919 the North Star congregation recognized its inability to go on and asked to be disorganized and the property sold. Also in this same territory was another church left behind. It was known as the Swamp Creek house. It had been an unused church building which was purchased by the Brethren. It was some six miles north of Versailles. The date of its abandonment is not available. It was not an organized church, it seems.

In Shelby County stands another abandoned Brethren church. It was known as the Loramie church. It dates back to 1866 when the first house was erected. Too small for future use, it was replaced in 1885 by the structure still extant. The location was some nine miles west of Sidney. Loss of membership and lack of leadership caused its abandonment by authority of district meeting in 1926. The equipment and property were sold and the proceeds given to the Sidney church, to which most of the members transferred. The church was purchased by the Oran Christian church, moved on a lot there, and is used as a community house.

Two other houses were abandoned in Shelby County. One, called Mosquito Creek, was the first house used by what is now the Sidney congregation. It was located six miles east of the city. The date of its construction seems obscure. It was of brick and still stands. Having reverted to the original property, it is used as a dwelling. About 1895 it was abandoned for a new location in Sidney, which was purchased from the German Methodists, at Ohio and South streets. It was sold



and the present structure built on Grove Avenue in 1905. It is now used for business purposes.

To the west of Sidney, at the state line, we find that the Union City congregation vacated a building one and one-half mile north of the city. It was erected in 1870. In 1917 it was replaced by the present structure in Union City. It seems that another house, erected in 1878, south and east of the city, and formerly used by this congregation, was abandoned. Pleasant Valley, formerly a part of the Union City congregation, also abandoned one of its two meeting places, called the Jordan house. It was erected in 1900. The work was then centered at the Valley house. The Jordan house was razed and the material used for a barn.

As we move into Miami County we find three churches left behind, Casstown, Hickory Grove, and the original Troy church. The Hickory Grove church stood a few miles east and south of its successor, the West Charleston church. It was erected in 1854 and used until 1903 when the new structure, the present one except for enlargement in 1915, was occupied. The building was converted into a dwelling. The first Casstown church, of brick, was built about 1850. The congregation reached a membership of one hundred twenty and then began to decline, particularly after the Old Order division. In 1895 the old brick structure in the country was abandoned and a new one built at Casstown. In 1921 the members petitioned to be permitted to disband and transfer to Troy. In 1923 the report was made of the sale of the property, the proceeds of which were given to the Troy church. The Troy congregation worshiped at first in a frame church on McKaig and Monroe streets, purchased from the Progressive Brethren people in 1911. This was the home of the Troy members until the erection of the new modern building at the west edge of the city in 1952. It was sold to the Grace Baptist brethren.

In Darke County, in the former territory comprising the Palestine church, there was erected a building, in 1868, just south of the village of Palestine. This was torn down prior to 1905, when the congregation rebuilt the West Branch house, erected in 1876, and used but the one house. In 1922 the name of the congregation was changed to West Branch. This con-

gregation was disorganized in 1930. Another building abandoned.

In Montgomery County, we turn first to the West Dayton congregation, now Mack Memorial, which built its first structure in 1889 on College Street in Dayton. This was occupied by the members until 1951, when it was sold to the colored people. It had been remodeled in 1918. A very beautiful new house of worship was erected in 1952 on Salem Avenue.

To the west and north the old Wolf Creek congregation had erected a building in 1837. It was superseded by a larger one across the road in 1870. This one was abandoned for the one erected to the south, Eversole, in 1872, and the one in Brookville purchased from the United Brethren in 1905. With the building of a church in Arlington in 1886, there were four buildings. There remain the one at Eversole and the one in Brookville. The score, two out of four!

In Darke County, in territory now comprising the Pittsburg and Painter Creek congregations, which was first known as the Brush Creek congregation, there was erected a log cabin in 1849. This was the first house of worship. Within a few years this was succeeded by a larger structure, one mile west of Painter Creek village. This in turn was abandoned for a new one, one-half mile north. This was succeeded by a new one, the present structure, in 1906. One was also built at Potsdam (Georgetown then) in 1860. This was superseded by a larger one in 1875 and this one by the present structure in 1917-18. This was a part of the Pittsburg congregation. The present structure at Pittsburg is the first and only for that congregation.

Another church abandoned for church services but converted to many uses for Kingdom building was the Sugar Grove church between Covington and Pleasant Hill. It was itself the successor to a log house of worship erected in 1840 one-half mile north of Pleasant Hill. The first Sugar Grove house, of stone, was erected in 1849, a large one for its day, being forty by eighty feet. In 1874 a brick house erected on the same site superseded this one. It was fifty by eighty feet. When the New Covington church structure was erected in 1911, interest here and at Pleasant Hill gradually moved



Sugar Grove into disuse until it was taken over by the district for a camp site. Not abandoned but its services shifted.

The West Alexandria congregation grew out of what was known as Sugar Hill, although the latter included a much larger territory. Within this area was built the "Brower" meetinghouse in the early 1840's. Another house, called Twin Valley, was built in 1874. It was later razed. Still another, called Tom's Run, was erected around 1860. These were superseded by the new structure erected at West Alexandria in 1924. A church, abandoned before 1920, stood west of Gratis. It was known as the Brubaker church. In 1862 a house was built at Wheatville. This was superseded by a building purchased in Gratis in 1912.

In New Carlisle there stands a building, now converted into an apartment house, which housed the New Carlisle congregation at first. It had been purchased from the Presbyterians. This was replaced in 1892 by the present structure, since twice added to, to provide room for the growing congregation.

## 4. GROUPS WHICH STEPPED ASIDE

The District of Southern Ohio suffered severely in the withdrawal of two groups especially, both of which also affected the entire Brotherhood.

The group known as the Old Order Brethren was the first to withdraw. The grievances which finally led to the division began in the early part of the last half of the nineteenth century. This district presented a petition to Annual Conference of 1869, requesting condemnation of certain practices in local churches and in conducting the Annual Conference. This petition originated in what was then the Stillwater (Covington) church. It was amended or changed in a later meeting at the Wolf Creek (Bear Creek) church. The Annual Conference answered the petition in a very carefully worded reply, in which it refused to grant the desired changes and objects to the full extent petitioned for but allowed some changes. This did not satisfy the petitioners. There was continued agitation.

In 1879 many elders of Southern Ohio met at the Salem church and framed another petition. It was presented to district conference. The district sent it on to Annual Conference of 1880, with this answer appended: "Answer: The elders of Southern Ohio having gotten up this petition to Annual Meeting, and being very urgent that it be sent up, we in District Meeting, agree to send it up, but we as a District cannot unitedly give it our approval."

The Standing Committee carefully framed an answer and the Conference passed it, but it did not satisfy the petitioners. They met again in the Wolf Creek church in December 1880. It being widely known that this meeting was being held and that it represented a final attempt to achieve the petitioners' ends, it was attended by elders from other districts. Resolutions were passed and sent to Annual Meeting of 1881, which stood firm on the answer of 1880.



This was the action that precipitated the division. Announcement of another meeting was circulated. Held in August of 1881, at the Ludlow (Pittsburg) church, this meeting was largely attended. A paper, passed and signed by twelve Southern Ohio elders and three others, set forth the basis for the new group. The elders led many members into the dissenting group. It succeeded more by the suasion of the elders than by the convictions of the members. In November of that year a meeting was held near the Salem church where the group organized as the Old German Baptist Brethren. Many churches of the district lost large or small groups to the new body.

While this group considered the church altogether too progressive another group was contending through most of these same years that she was too conservative. This group did not center in this district, but in Pennsylvania. It was led by Elder H. R. Holsinger, who advocated what were considered very radical policies and practices. A committee from Annual Meeting visited him. He disagreed with the committee and it recommended that he be disfellowshipped. The Annual Meeting accepted the report and Elder Holsinger was thus disfellowshipped. He and his followers formed a new organization with their first convention held at Ashland, Ohio, in June 1882. Again groups were pulled out of Southern Ohio churches, but not so many as in the previous withdrawal.

Another very small group, contending mostly for plain clothes, pulled off in 1926 under the leadership of Elder B. E. Kessler, of Missouri. He and his followers organized the Dunkard Brethren Church at Plevna, Indiana, in June 1926. It did not affect Southern Ohio greatly, involving only a score or so of members.

In 1954 a group of forty members in the Happy Corner church, following their leader, Elder Lon Karns, formed a new congregation near Englewood and identified themselves with the Grace Brethren, whose headquarters are at Winona Lake, Indiana. They were opposed to recognition of the National Council of Churches and placed great emphasis upon the second coming of Christ. A few from near-by churches also joined the group.





## PART THREE

### Personalities





## 1. CLERGY

### EDWARD T. ANGENY

Edward T. Angeny was born in the city of brotherly love, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on August 6, 1914, to William G. and Catherine Kruff Angeny.

He completed his high school training in Philadelphia and entered Juniata College, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, graduating with the A.B. degree in 1947. In 1954 he received his B.D. degree from the Bonebrake Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio.



Edward Angeny and Wife

On February 26, 1938, he was married in Philadelphia to Helen Buehl. They have two children, Carol L. and Phyllis K.

His election to the ministry occurred in 1936 in the Bethany church, Philadelphia. He was ordained an elder by the Muncie, Indiana, church in 1949.

He ministered to the Woodworth church, Northeastern Ohio, 1939-40. Then he went to China as a missionary, remaining until 1947, when communism took over. Returning to the United States he pastored the Muncie, Indiana, congregation until 1951, when he became pastor of the Lower Miami church, where he still serves.

### DALE AUKERMAN

Dale Aukerman was born June 16, 1930, in Preble County, Ohio, to Willard and Lucille Miller Aukerman.

He completed high school in the Lanier high school, Preble County. He has the A.B. degree from Chicago University and has completed three more years of study there.

He came into the Church of the Brethren in 1949 and in 1951 he was licensed to the ministry by the Eaton church.

In 1952 he entered Brethren Volunteer Service, going to Europe in September 1953; he helped in the construction of Kassel House and then went into Y.M.C.A. work in Bavaria. Since January 1954 he has been a resettlement worker in Austria.

### H. JESSE BAKER

H. Jesse Baker, the son of Elder Henry and Nancy Reed Baker, was born near Lima, Ohio, on February 6, 1882.

He moved with his parents to the North Star congregation, this district, in 1895. Here he began a teaching career in 1901, and taught in Darke and Preble counties for thirty-six years. By attendance at summer normals and by completing correspondence courses he was able to complete two years of college.

Brother Baker became a member of the North Star church in 1901. He was elected to the ministry by this congregation



in October of 1904, and was ordained an elder here in 1911.

While living at North Star he served in the free ministry a total of fifteen years, from 1904 to 1919. Moving into the Beech Grove congregation, he worked here in the same capacity for nine years, 1919-28. From 1928 to 1937 he was the part-time pastor at Prices Creek. In 1937 he became full-time pastor at Polo, Illinois, continuing for four years. Following these years he pastored the Muncie church, Southern Indiana, for six years, 1941-47. Returning to Southern Ohio he had charge of the work at Hamilton for a year and then in 1948 retired to their home in West Manchester, Ohio. He presided as elder also while at Polo and at Prices Creek.

He married Mella D. Groff on November 27, 1902. Her father was Elder Nathan Groff, then of the North Star church. They had four sons and one daughter born to them. There have been sixteen grandchildren and no deaths as this is written. The children are: J. LeRoy, W. Kenneth, Emerson G., R. Paul, and Mrs. Ruth Emrick.

The Bakers observed their golden wedding anniversary on November 30, 1952, at their home in West Manchester.

### HENRY TAZWELL BARNHART

Henry Tazwell Barnhart was born near Dayton, Ohio, to Levi and Mary Della Barnhart on October 10, 1905.

Moving with his parents to Virginia, he received his public-school education there; this was followed by night-school classes and correspondence courses.

Lonnie Rebecca Cummings of Franklin County, Virginia, became his wife on November 25, 1925. They later moved to Dayton, where he united with the East Dayton church in 1931. They have five children: Lucille, Earl, Paul, David, and Glenn.

He first served as superintendent of the Sunday school in East Dayton and was elected to the ministry here in 1936. Installed into the full ministry in 1937, he was ordained an elder in 1945.

Brother Barnhart was the part-time pastor of the Circleville church in 1941 and has been part-time pastor of Prices Creek since September 1946. He was elder of the East Dayton



Henry Barnhart and Wife

church from 1948 to 1954 and has been elder of Prices Creek since 1950. He is a member of the Credential Committee of this district.

#### JOSEPHUS E. BARNHART

Josephus E. Barnhart was born near Ladoga, Indiana, July 15, 1862, to Anthony and Sarah Graybill Barnhart.

He grew up in Clark County, Ohio, attending the public schools here and later taking normal training at National Normal University, Lebanon, Ohio; Central Normal College, Great Bend, Kansas; and Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio.

His marriage to Emma Hertzler, of North Hampton, Ohio, took place on January 21, 1886. They were the parents of nine children: Jesse, Alma (Mrs. Roy Teach), Laura, Paul,



Leonard, Ruth, Howard, Lawrence (a minister and pastor in the Church of the Brethren), and Walter.

He became a member of the Donnels Creek church, this district, in 1885. Elected a minister by the Eden Valley church, Kansas, in 1894, he was ordained an elder by the Donnels Creek church in 1904.

For some twenty years he taught school and also engaged in farming. He served as elder of the Donnels Creek church for several years, and was for four years a member of the Mission Board of Southern Ohio.

In 1909 he became afflicted and in a few years was entirely helpless, spending the remainder of his life, over twenty-five years, in a wheel chair, maintaining through these years a joyous attitude and a keen interest in the affairs of the church and the district. He passed away on April 2, 1937. His wife died on December 7, 1924.

### SAMUEL LAWRENCE BARNHART

Samuel Lawrence Barnhart was born near Springfield, Ohio, on April 2, 1903, to Elder Josephus E. and Emma Hertzler Barnhart.

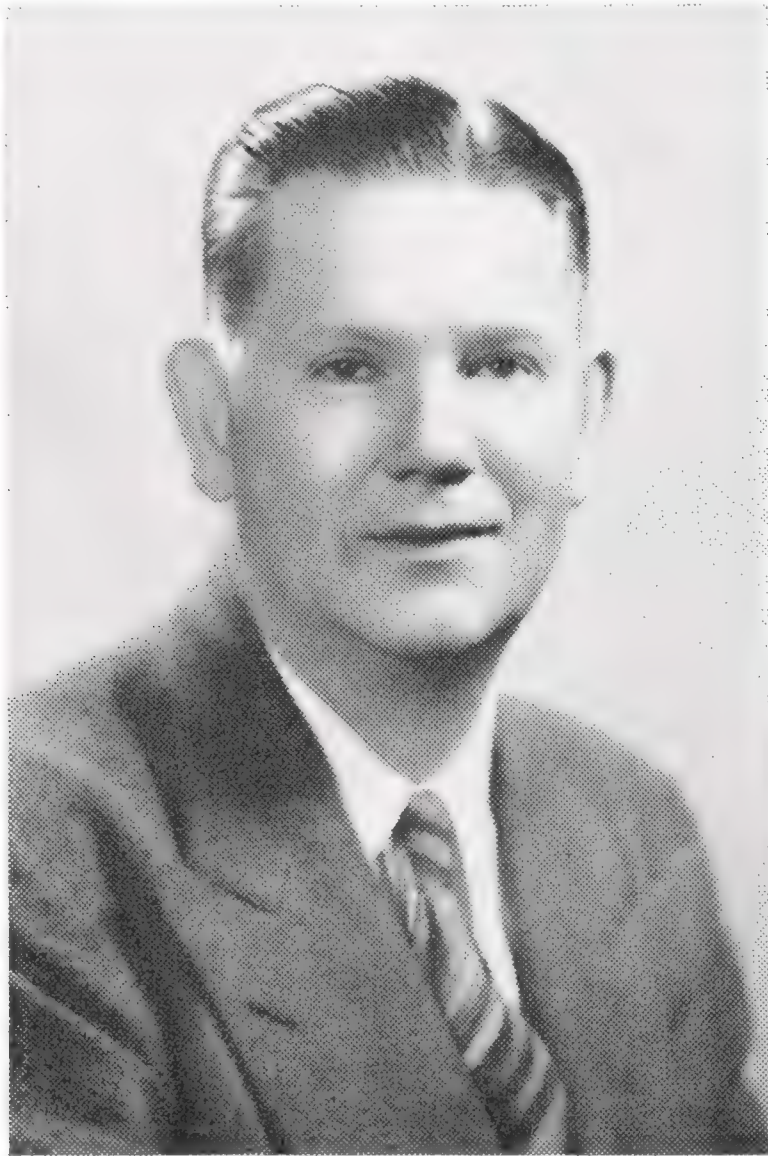
He was educated at Manchester and McPherson colleges, receiving his A.B. degree in 1928 from the latter. He graduated from Bethany Biblical Seminary, B.D. degree, in 1937. In 1949-50 he completed a year of graduate work in education at Chico State College, California.

June E. Myers, daughter of Elder and Sister J. M. Myers, of Cando, North Dakota, became his wife in 1935. She is a graduate in music from Bethany Biblical Seminary. They have one son, Larry.

He was licensed to the ministry by the New Carlisle church in 1932. The Cedar Rapids, Iowa, church made him an elder in 1940.

His pastoral service covers twenty-two years in the following churches: Pleasant Plains, Oklahoma; Batavia, Illinois; Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Long Beach, San Diego, Empire, and Chico, California.

Brother Barnhart served the District of Southern California and Arizona as moderator of district conference, as Standing Committeeman, and as the chairman of the



S. L. Barnhart

Board of Administration. He has served the District of Northern California as district writing clerk and as a member of Standing Committee. He was a member of the General Brotherhood Board, serving on the Foreign Mission Commission, from 1944 to 1949.

He has also taught in the high schools of both Oklahoma and California, and is at present a counselor-teacher in the Chico junior high school. He is co-pastor, with another teacher-minister, of the Chico church.

### MORRIS BEEGHLEY

Morris Beeghley was born in Dayton, Ohio, March 26, 1931, to Chester A. and Mary Lutz Beeghley.

He finished high school at the Fairview high school,



Dayton, and entered Manchester College, Indiana, graduating with the A.B. degree in the class of 1953. Then he entered Bethany Biblical Seminary; after one year he became a pastor in West Virginia.

On August 31, 1951, he married Beverly A. Bright at the East Dayton church.

The Fort McKinley church licensed him on November 27, 1949, and ordained him a minister in November of 1953. His plans are to complete his seminary course at Bethany Biblical Seminary in the near future.

### ISAAC R. BEERY

Isaac R. Beery was born to Abraham S. and Margaret Hunnsaker Beery on February 21, 1877, in Hocking County, Ohio.



I. R. Beery and Wife

He moved with the family to Covington, Ohio, in 1892, where he completed high school in 1897. That fall he entered

Juniata College, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. He continued here two years.

On July 20, 1899, he married Barbara Elizabeth Shafer. Three children were born to them, one dying in childhood. The two living are Mrs. Harry S. Wolf of Iowa City, Iowa, and Dr. George S. Beery of the faculty of the University of Wisconsin, Madison. An adopted daughter is Mrs. Lloyd Lowry, of Pleasant Hill, Ohio.

The couple established their home in Covington and he entered the teaching profession, continuing for eleven years in the public schools of Miami County.

He was elected to the ministry by the Pleasant Hill church in December of 1910 and entered Bethany Biblical Seminary in 1911. While here he pastored the Naperville, Illinois, church, and was advanced to the second-degree ministry. He continued as student and pastor for three years.

In 1915 he accepted a call to the Lanark church, Illinois, and in the fall of 1917 to the Flora church, Middle Indiana. He remained here five years. Following the years at Flora he pursued further studies in Chicago and then became pastor of the Pyrmont church, Southern Indiana, in 1923. They left Pyrmont to go to Manchester College, where he and his son graduated together in May 1926.

He then engaged in evangelism for a brief period, returning to pastoral work with the Markle church, Middle Indiana, in the fall of 1926. Here he was ordained to the eldership on March 16, 1928. In 1930 the Beerys went to the Rossville church, Southern Indiana, returning thence to Pleasant Hill in 1932.

For several years he was self-employed, giving part-time pastoral services to Pleasant Hill, Pleasant Valley, Sidney, and Charleston, all in this district. In 1943 he served the Bellefontaine church for a short period, then accepted charge of the Freeburg-Reading parish, near Alliance, Ohio, Northeastern District. In 1949, because of Sister Beery's illness, they returned to Pleasant Hill, where they still live.

He was the moderator of the Southern Indiana district conference in 1931, and has been elder-in-charge of several



churches. Though retired he continues to preach on occasion. Sister Beery is still an invalid but is able to get about the home in a wheel chair.

### D. G. BERKEBILE

D. G. Berkebile, born March 6, 1880, in Fulton County, Ohio, was the son of David and Sarah Stutzman Berkebile. His father was an elder.

He attended the public schools, Manchester College, and Bethany Bible School.

In 1894 he became a member of the Church of the Brethren, was elected to the ministry in 1900, and was ordained an elder in 1909.

He taught school for twelve years, was pastor of the Harris Creek church, this district, for nineteen years, and of the Union City and Poplar Grove churches four years, making a total of twenty-three years as a pastor in Southern Ohio. He left this district to become pastor of the West Goshen church, Northern Indiana, where he served four years; he has retired from the active ministry, and they now live in North Manchester, Indiana.

Effie Kintner, of Northwestern Ohio, became his wife in 1903. They have six children, all of whom are Manchester College graduates.

Brother Berkebile was on the Mission Board of Southern Ohio for fifteen years and was on the Standing Committee eight times. He was for some time a member of the Ministerial Board here and has moderated district conference three times.

### FOSTER M. BITTINGER

Foster M. Bittinger was born at Accident, Maryland, June 11, 1901, the son of Jonas and Etta Fike Bittinger.

He attended Elizabethtown Academy, Pennsylvania, and Bridgewater College, Virginia; he also studied at Bethany Biblical Seminary, Chicago, and Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee.

On June 3, 1923, he was married to Esther Bair. They have four living children: Emmert, Virginia, Annabelle, and Kathleen.



Foster Bittinger and Wife

In June of 1921 he was elected to the ministry by the Eglon church, West Virginia, and on May 16, 1925, was ordained to the eldership by the Jordan Run congregation, West Virginia.

The churches of which he has been the pastor, in their order, are: North Fork, West Virginia; Browntown, Virginia; Brightwood, Virginia; Terra Alta, West Virginia, in connection with district field work in this state; Westernport-Frostburg, Maryland; Mill Creek, Virginia, and since September 1950 the Salem church in this district.

Brother Bittinger has been active in church camps, has been moderator of district conferences and has served several times on Standing Committee and on different district boards and committees. He is the author of *History of the Church of the Brethren in the First District of West Virginia* and also of the history of the Mill Creek church, Virginia.



## SIDNEY ALPHEUS BLESSING

Sidney Alpheus Blessing was born in Huntington County, Indiana, on April 7, 1868, to John and Sarah Miller Blessing.

He attended the public schools in Indiana and prepared for the teaching profession at Mount Morris College. He taught for eleven years in Indiana.

Brother Blessing married Anna Belle Klepinger on September 5, 1895. Three children were born to them, one dying in infancy. The others are Earle and Mrs. Harry Black. The wife and mother died in 1936. In 1942 he was married to Lydia Grossnickle, of Castine, Ohio. She survived his death on November 30, 1950, at West Milton, where he had resided since 1905.

He united with the Loon Creek church in Indiana in 1889 and was elected a minister by the Kewanna church in 1892. He later resided in the Wolf Creek, Bear Creek, and West Milton churches. He was ordained by the latter and was its elder from 1909 until 1937. Other churches which he served as elder included Beech Grove, Castine, Prices Creek, Pitsburg, Middle District, and Potsdam. He was elder and minister at the last of these for eighteen years previous to his death in 1950.

Brother Blessing represented the district twice as a member of the Standing Committee, and once was reader for district conference.

He was manager of the local telephone company for over twenty years, and served four years as representative in the state legislature. He was an ardent temperance worker.

## DANIEL LEVI BLICKENSTAFF

Daniel Levi Blickenstaff was born near Oakley, Macon County, Illinois, on November 11, 1901, the son of Levi and Martha Davis Blickenstaff.

He attended the local schools, Mount Morris Academy 1916-20, the Columbia College of Expression, and the Training School of Bethany Seminary. Later he returned to Mount

Morris College and then enrolled in Oklahoma A. and M. College at Stillwater, and lastly in McPherson College, Kansas, where he graduated in 1945 with the A.B. degree. Returning to Bethany Seminary he completed the work for the B.D.



D. L. Blickenstaff and Wife

degree in 1950. During the summers of 1948, 1949, and 1950 he was in Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Illinois, working toward the Master's degree in theology. He attended night school at James Millikin University, Decatur, Illinois, and taught school for two years in Macon County, Illinois.

In 1938 the Church of the Brethren at Oakley, Southern Illinois, licensed him to preach. The same congregation installed him into the ministry in 1940. While residing in the District of Oklahoma and Panhandle of Texas he was ordained an elder.

He served in the ministry in the Waka, Texas, congregation; the Big Creek church, in Oklahoma; at Navarre, Kansas; and in Muskegon, Michigan. He came to Southern Ohio to be the leader of the Middletown church in 1950. In 1952 he became the pastor of the church in Cincinnati.



His marriage to Mabrye Ann Taylor, of Plattsburg, Missouri, took place on January 3, 1923. They have two daughters, Martha Mae Jennings and Josephine.

He has been on the Standing Committee, and on the Board of Christian Education for Northeastern Kansas. Wherever he has been he has co-operated actively in the interdenominational work, and has been active in the church camps of three districts.

### IRA G. BLOCHER

Ira G. Blocher, the son of Elder Samuel W. and Catherine Glunt Blocher, was born near Greenville on July 22, 1873.

Completing common school he spent a year in the academy of Mount Morris College, Illinois, and later three



Ira Blocher and Wife

and one-half years in the Training School of Bethany Biblical Seminary.

On August 24, 1895, he married Laura A. Wagner. They

have four children: Mrs. Ruth Mallott, Mrs. Kathryn Wallick, Kenneth, and Lois.

The Poplar Grove church called him to the ministry on February 4, 1904, and he was ordained an elder by the Zion, Michigan, church on June 25, 1913.

His ministerial services were confined mostly to Poplar Grove, Prices Creek, Eaton, and Greenville in this district and to the Zion church, Michigan.

His service to the district included that of district Sunday-school secretary, member of the Mission Board, member of the Historical Committee, and transportation representative.

He followed farming, but is now in retirement at Greenville, where he is active in many farm organizations, particularly on the Farm Security Administration and as president of the Farm Loan Association of Darke County, but recently serving also Miami and Shelby counties.

### JOHN GLENN BLOUGH

John Glenn Blough, son of Elder S. S. and Mary Wertz Blough, was born at North Manchester, Indiana, on September 18, 1911.

He completed high school at Sterling, Illinois, and entered Manchester College, graduating, A.B. degree, in 1933.

On June 24, 1950, he married Grace B. Waite, at Ft. Thomas, Kentucky.

He was licensed to preach in 1940 and ordained a minister in 1941 by the Cincinnati church. In the local church he has worked as Sunday-school superintendent, church treasurer, and young people's teacher. For a few months in 1942 he was the assistant pastor.

He is a research chemist living at Ft. Thomas, Kentucky, at present.



## SILAS S. BLOUGH

Silas S. Blough was the fourth child of Emanuel J. and Sally Barndt Blough, being born to them on April 27, 1868, in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.



S. S. Blough and Wife

He attended the public schools of Somerset County, three terms of teachers' normal, and Juniata College, from which he graduated with the B.E. degree in 1893. In 1896 he was awarded the M.E. degree. He graduated with the B.A. degree from Manchester College in 1915. He also attended Bethany Biblical Seminary for three years and a summer term at the Divinity School of Chicago University, being granted the B.D. degree by Bethany in 1917. In 1924 he spent the summer in Dr. White's Bible School, New York City.

He taught public school for ten terms in Pennsylvania, and two terms in teachers' normal schools. Also he taught in the Bible department of Manchester College. During part of this time he was also the pastor and elder of the local church.

Brother Blough became a member of the Church of the

Brethren in June of 1886. In June of 1894 he was elected a minister and in 1895 advanced to the second degree. He was ordained an elder on May 27, 1902.

He was married to Mary Alice Wertz, of the Walnut Grove church, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, on June 17, 1894. They have three sons and one daughter: Carman G., J. Roy, Ruth S. (Mrs. Kenneth Blocher), and J. Glenn, all of whom have graduated from Manchester College. Beyond this, Carman has the degrees of A.M. and LL.D.; J. Roy, the A.M., Ph.D., LL.D., and L.H.D.; and J. Glenn the A.M. Carmen and Roy are listed in *Who's Who in America*.

Brother Blough's ministerial activities began in the free ministry in 1894 in the churches of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. In May of 1900 he went to Pittsburgh, where he founded and pastored for several years what is now the Pittsburgh Church of the Brethren. In 1908 he began as part-time pastor of the Batavia, Illinois, church while he pursued his seminary work at Bethany Seminary, Chicago. He ministered to this church until 1911. He then went to North Manchester, serving the Manchester church as elder and part-time pastor while teaching in the college. He became pastor of the Astoria church, Southern Illinois, in 1918 and was with this church until 1921. In this year he began at the Decatur church, same district, remaining here until 1924. He was then at Sterling, Northern Illinois and Wisconsin, until 1929, when he became pastor of the Fort Wayne church, Northern Indiana. He was here until September 1934, at which-time he returned to his native state, Pennsylvania, to pastor the Greencastle church, Southern Pennsylvania. He was here two years when he was asked to go to the York church, where he labored from 1936 to 1940.

It was in this latter year that he came into this district as pastor of the Sidney church. He was pastor here from 1940 to 1945. Remaining in Southern Ohio, he became pastor of the Pleasant Valley church in September 1945. On September 1, 1949, Brother Blough retired from the active ministry, aged eighty, and took up his residence at Greenville. He still preaches on occasion and is active in the local church there.

He was the first district Sunday-school secretary of



Western Pennsylvania, was six years a member of the General Sunday School Board, and four years a member of the General Ministerial Board. He was once a trustee of Mount Morris College, Illinois, was six times a member of the Standing Committee, and has been an instructor in many Bible and Sunday-school institutes across the Brotherhood. He is co-author of *Studies in Doctrine and Devotion* and has written many articles for our church papers.

How inspiring it must be to retrospect over such an active and useful life!

### JAMES C. BOITNOTT

James Christopher Boitnott was born near Boones Mill, Virginia, on January 30, 1918, to Ivan Lewis and Essie Cummings Boitnott.



James Boitnott and Wife

Completing his high school training in the Boones Mill schools, he followed farming before entering Bridgewater College, Virginia, from which he graduated, A.B. degree, in

1943. He received the B.D. degree from Bethany Biblical Seminary in 1946.

His marriage to Daisy Belle Berkebile, of Rockwood, Pennsylvania, took place on June 3, 1944. She is the daughter of Elder Walter F. and Daisy R. Berkebile.

Brother Boitnott united with the Brick church, Southern Virginia, and was licensed to the ministry by this congregation in 1940 and then ordained a minister in 1942. His ordination to the eldership occurred on May 16, 1948, in the Toledo church, Northwestern Ohio.

He served in summer pastorates at Copper Hill, Virginia, and at Wooddale, Pennsylvania. In 1945 he became pastor of the Toledo church, where he remained until 1951. In September of that year he came to this district as pastor of the Brookville church, where he is serving at this time. While in Northwestern Ohio he was a member of the District Board of Administration.

### LEVI A. BOOKWALTER

Levi A. Bookwalter was the son of Joseph and Susan Bookwalter, born in Montgomery County on December 1, 1856.

Preparing himself for teaching, he followed this profession for twenty-six years.

On November 14, 1880, he married Catherine Ann Shock. They had two sons and three daughters.

Brother and Sister Bookwalter became members of the Lower Stillwater church in 1882. In 1884 he was elected to the office of deacon and in 1889 to the ministry. His ordination as an elder took place in 1897.

He presided as elder in the following Southern Ohio churches: Lower Stillwater, Trotwood, West Dayton, Happy Corner, and Middle District.

Brother Bookwalter was one of the first trustees of Manchester College, representing this district. At various times he was moderator, reader, and secretary of district conference, represented the district on Standing Committee, and was a member of the District Ministerial Board. He served on the District Temperance Committee, and was a member of



the Historical Committee that compiled and published the 1920 history. He was one of the instigators of the summer assembly and was an ardent advocate of temperance.

His death occurred in 1932, resulting from an automobile accident.

### SYLVAN BOOKWALTER

Sylvan Bookwalter was born February 27, 1866, in Darke County, Ohio, the son of William and Esther Baker Bookwalter.

He was married to Mary Studebaker in 1885. Two sons and one daughter were born to them.

He became a member of the church in 1896. In 1902 he was called to the ministry and in 1910 was ordained an elder.

In the free ministry he served well and long, and as presiding elder had the oversight of these churches: Constance, Prices Creek, Pleasant Hill, Potsdam, Salem, and Brookville.

His companion died in 1919. In 1920 he married Alice Flory, who passed away in 1946. He married Mrs. Edna Minnich in 1948.

He continued active in the local church and Sunday school until his death on October 10, 1951.

### EARL M. BOWMAN

Earl McKinley Bowman was born near Johnson City, Tennessee, on November 23, 1896, the son of Elder John Price Bowman and Tennie Etta Garst Bowman.

He attended high school at West Branch, Michigan, and completed his high school work in the academy of McPherson College, Kansas. Continuing at McPherson he graduated, A.B. degree, in 1922. Having received the M.A. degree in 1924 from the University of Pennsylvania and the B.D. degree from Crozer Theological Seminary, Pennsylvania, in 1936, he completed residence work for the Ph.D. degree at the University of Pennsylvania in 1937.

On November 21, 1919, he was married to Leah Frances

Miller, of Alvo, Nebraska. They have one daughter, Patricia Anne.

Brother Bowman was part-time pastor of the Bethany church, Philadelphia, from 1922 to 1925. Becoming pastor of the Washington, D.C., church in 1925, he continued here until 1930, when he was called to the Central church, Roanoke,



Earl Bowman and Wife

Virginia, where he served until 1933. At this time he returned to the Bethany church, pastoring the congregation and continuing studies in Crozer Theological Seminary and the University of Pennsylvania. On September 1, 1937, he became pastor of the First church, Harrisonburg, Virginia. There he remained until September 1952, when he went to the Lititz church, Eastern Pennsylvania. On February 1, 1955, he is to become pastor of the Mack Memorial church, this district.

While at Harrisonburg Brother Bowman led the congregation in the construction of a new sanctuary. He served the district there first on the Board of Christian Education and later on the Board of Administration. He served as moderator of district conference, as Standing Committeeman, and as a



member of the executive committee of the Virginia Council of Churches, representing the denomination.

Brother Bowman was a member of the committee which presented the plan for the General Brotherhood Board and was elected a member of the newly established board, serving two terms, 1945-1951. He served as chairman of the Ministry and Home Mission Commission and as a member of the executive committee of the board.

### WALTER BOWMAN

Walter Bowman was born February 9, 1923, at Norwalk, Ohio. He is the son of Dean and Evelyn Bowman. He was graduated from the Lodi high school, Lodi, Ohio, and received his A.B. degree from Manchester College in 1944. He took



Walter Bowman and Wife

his seminary training at Bethany Biblical Seminary, Chicago, receiving his B.D. degree in 1949.

From 1946 to 1948 Brother Bowman worked with the

Brethren Service Commission in Europe. He was one of the five men sent to initiate Brethren Service work in Italy.

Frances Gibson became his wife on May 28, 1944, at Astoria, Illinois. They have four children: Wayne, Philip, Teresa, and Christine. Mrs. Bowman was with her husband in Brethren Service work in Europe.

Elected to the ministry in 1940 in the Black River congregation, Northeastern Ohio, he was ordained an elder in 1950 in the Lanark church, Northern Illinois and Wisconsin. He ministered to the Lanark church for three years, and is at present pastor of the Fort McKinley church, this district. While in Northern Illinois he served as district youth adviser, camp director, and member of the District Board of Administration and represented the district on Standing Committee. He is at present a member of the District Board of Southern Ohio.

### FRANK EARLY BROWER

Frank Early Brower was born in Dayton, Ohio, to Ausban J. and Maude Early Brower on October 15, 1896. The family moved to West Alexandria, Ohio, then to a farm near Eaton, Ohio, where he completed his high school training.

Entering Bethany Biblical Seminary in 1916, he remained until 1920. In 1926 he graduated, A.B. degree, from Manchester College and then entered the College of Medicine of Ohio State University, in preparation for becoming a medical missionary for the church. He taught at Manchester College one year.

He was first married to Ruth Royer, the daughter of William and Martha Royer, of near New Madison, Ohio, on May 6, 1916. She was also training for the work of a missionary. But she contracted tuberculosis, and passed away in March 1929. Then Brother Brower was married to Gladys Zimmerman of the Bear Creek church, this district. They have three children, one son and two daughters. They have lived in Miami County since 1944 and are members of the church in Troy, in which city he owns an office supply business.

He was elected to the ministry while in Bethany Biblical



Seminary and ordained an elder by the Bear Creek church, this district.

His work in the local church has consisted of teaching Sunday school since a young man, acting as assistant elder of the Troy church, and serving as a member of the building



Frank Brower and Wife

committee responsible for the construction of the recently dedicated new building. He is a past president of the Troy Council of Churches.

For the district he has been a member of the Apportionment Committee for six years.

### CLARENCE O. BRUBAKER

Clarence O. Brubaker, a native of Carroll County, Indiana, was born June 22, 1904, to Harley E. and Malissie Bailey Brubaker.

He became a member of the Howard Church of the Brethren, Southern Indiana, in 1925. He attended high school

at Burlington, Indiana, and spent two years at Bethany Seminary.

On March 7, 1923, he was married to Roxie M. Myer, of Burlington. Until they took up regular pastoral work they were engaged in farming.

He was called to the ministry on June 28, 1946, and ordained to the full ministry June 1, 1948. He was made an elder on July 23, 1953.

During the summer of 1948 he served as temporary pastor for the Stanley, Worden, and Maple Grove congregations in Wisconsin. In September 1948 he became pastor of the Cedar Grove church, this district, serving until September 1953, when he was invited to become pastor of the Sugar Creek church, Northwestern Ohio.

### J. FRANKLIN BRUBAKER

J. Franklin Brubaker was born in Greene County, Ohio, November 22, 1861, the son of Nicholas and Harriet Brubaker.

He united with the church when sixteen years old. After spending four years at Mount Morris College, Illinois, he taught in the public schools for several years.

His marriage to Elizabeth Brubaker took place on August 12, 1888.

Elected to the ministry on August 3, 1897, he was ordained an elder on August 2, 1910, by the Lower Twin church (West Alexandria).

He served one term as trustee of Manchester College for the district.

He died at his home in West Alexandria on December 22, 1927.

### ENOS E. BRUMBAUGH

Enos E. Brumbaugh is the son of John R. and Nancy Heckman Brumbaugh, born in Montgomery County, Ohio, on June 14, 1873.



He married Daisy Warner on December 15, 1897. They have five children living: Emerson W., Hazel, Ethel, J. Mark, and Lois Faye.



E. E. Brumbaugh and Wife

The Salem church called him to the ministry in August of 1911 and ordained him an elder on August 23, 1919.

His ministry has been confined mostly to the Salem congregation. Besides doing the preaching he was its elder for twenty years. Also he taught the young men's class in the Sunday school for sixteen years. He was often called upon for marriages and has been a leader in community affairs.

For the district he was field secretary for the Brethren Home, at Greenville, for four years.

### JESSE K. BRUMBAUGH

Jesse K. Brumbaugh, son of Jacob and Catherine Wagonman Brumbaugh, was born in Randolph Township, Montgomery County, Ohio, on August 26, 1837.

After attending the local schools he took normal-school training, preparing to teach. He taught fourteen years in the public schools.

He was married to Mary E. Hocker, the daughter of a River Brethren minister, on December 4, 1862. Five of ten children born to them grew to adulthood. Two sons still live as this is written.

Uniting with the church in 1865, he was chosen a minister in 1884 and made an elder in 1897. Becoming joint elder with John H. Brumbaugh, he served until 1908, when West Milton was formed from the Salem congregation and he was made elder of the new congregation. After a year he shared in the eldership of the church with S. A. Blessing until 1915. His ministerial services were confined largely to these two congregations. He was a farmer, retiring and moving to West Milton in 1902. He was a leader of congregational singing and held classes of vocal music.

As minister, song leader, teacher, counselor, and elder, he served his church well and long.

He passed away in 1927, and his wife in 1930.

### RALPH W. BRUMBAUGH

Ralph W. Brumbaugh, a native of Bethel Township, Miami County, Ohio, was born December 11, 1898, to Elmer and Ella J. Brumbaugh.

He completed his public-school training in the Bethel Township high school.

His marriage to Vada V. Horner, on July 29, 1922, took place in the East Dayton church.

They have six children: Ralph, Jr., Dale, Paul, Anna Mae, Esther, and Ray.

He was called to the ministry by the Middle District church on August 31, 1940. He assisted here in the preaching until he moved to the Brookville congregation in 1951. His work in the local churches has also included being a Sunday-school teacher and a Sunday-school superintendent. He is a farmer by vocation.



## BERRYMAN F. CLICK

Berryman F. Click was born at Harrisonburg, Virginia, to Lewis N. and Catherine Wright Click.

He completed three years in high school and took further training in the Training School of Bethany Biblical Seminary.

On June 28, 1923, he married Marjorie Cline Corbin, at Harrisonburg.

The Constance church, Kentucky, licensed him in 1944 and ordained him in 1946. He assists in the work at Constance.

## HUGH L. CLOPPERT

Hugh L. Cloppert was born August 30, 1885, in Montgomery County, Ohio, to Herman and Cora Hubley Cloppert.



Hugh Cloppert and Wife

He completed high school at West Milton and attended Ohio Northern University, Ohio, for two terms.

His marriage to Maude Bowman occurred on February

24, 1907, near Clayton, Ohio. They had four daughters and one son. After her death on November 4, 1932, he married Mrs. Altha B. George of Dayton, Ohio, on March 10, 1934. She was deceased March 3, 1951. On May 3, 1952, he married Viola Riley, of the East Dayton church. They reside in this congregation.

He was elected a minister in June of 1912 and ordained an elder in 1926.

Churches served in Southern Ohio include Happy Corner, Fort McKinley, East Dayton, and Cincinnati. Outside this district he served Middlebury, in Northern Indiana; Zion Hill, in Northeastern Ohio; and Belvedere in Southern California.

For the district he has been a member of the Auditing Committee and of the Ministerial Board. At present he is the chairman of the official board of the East Dayton congregation.

### E. S. COFFMAN

E. S. Coffman is the son of J. B. and Sarah E. Coffman, of Dayton, Virginia. He took two years' training at Bridgewater College, Virginia, and one year at Bethany Biblical Seminary.

On May 9, 1906, he married Bessie Phares, at Bridgewater. They have one son and one daughter.

He was elected to the ministry in April 1914 by the Beaver Creek church, Virginia, and was ordained an elder by the West Dayton church, this district.

As pastor he has worked in these churches: Staunton, Virginia; Kansas City, Kansas; Harrisonburg, Virginia; Geiger Memorial, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and West Dayton, Ohio.

He served the General Brotherhood Board in evangelism for seven years. During the last ten years he has ministered to the Beaver Creek church, Virginia, and the North Fork church, West Virginia. Although beyond three score years and ten he speaks twice each Sunday.



## MCKINLEY COFFMAN

McKinley Coffman, son of Charles D. and Estelle Schafer Coffman, was born at Fairplay, Maryland, on September 22, 1896.



McKinley Coffman and Wife

Following the completion of his high school work, he attended Blue Ridge College and Columbia Business College.

On June 7, 1923, he was married at Hagerstown, Maryland, to Elizabeth Fahrney of Frederick, Maryland. They have five children: Mrs. Jane Pellam, Katherine, H. McKinley, Margaret Anne, and Barbara Lou.

He was elected to the ministry by the Manor church, Middle Maryland, on November 29, 1917, and ordained an elder on September 12, 1926, by the Grossnickles congregation, same state.

Working in the free ministry until 1924, Brother Coffman became pastor of the Grossnickles congregation in January of that year. He served here until 1928, when he became pastor at Fruitland, Idaho, where he continued until 1934. As pastor of the Troutville church, Virginia, he remained there from

1934 to 1938. In the latter year he went to Sebring, Florida, continuing in this church until 1942 and also acting as field secretary for the district.

Then followed a period on a farm in Maryland rebuilding his health. During this time he acted as supply minister for various congregations, the last being for the Woodberry church for a few months over a year. From September 1951 to November 1952 he directed the work at the Friendship church, Baltimore, Maryland.

He came to Southern Ohio in November 1952 as pastor of the Hamilton-Middletown parish, where he continues his ministry.

He has served on district boards in Idaho, Florida, Virginia, and Maryland, and as moderator of district conferences in Idaho, Florida, and Maryland. Also he has been a Standing Committeeman several times. He was on the National Youth Cabinet for one term.

Brother Coffman and his wife have just returned from a trip to Europe, where they visited Brethren Service workers, including a son and a daughter who are attached to the work at Kassel House. Another daughter is an exchange student in Europe.

### CLAUDE V. COPPOCK

Claude V. Coppock, born November 25, 1885, in Miami County, near Tipp City, was the son of John and Mary Heikes Coppock.

He became a member of the Middle District church in January 1908. This church called him to the ministry on January 22, 1910. On September 13, 1917, this same congregation ordained him to the eldership.

Jointly with Elder J. P. Miller he served this church in the free ministry for five years and then alone for six years.

In 1921 the Southern Ohio Mission Board asked him to assume charge of the Bremen church, in Fairfield County; here he remained for one year, thence going to the Circleville, Ohio, church for the Mission Board. After three years here he became pastor of the Sidney church, remaining with this



congregation for seven years, 1925 to 1932. Then he returned to Middle District, serving as part-time pastor for nineteen years, or until 1951.

In the fall of 1951 Brother Coppock went to Wakarusa, Northern Indiana, as pastor. In 1953 he took up the work at the Beech Grove church, Southern Indiana, where he now is.

Brother Coppock married Ethel Oaks on December 7, 1907. They raised an adopted daughter. Sister Coppock died on October 19, 1949. On May 25, 1952, he married Mrs. Gertrude Metzler, of Wakarusa, Indiana.

Besides in the public schools of Miami County and some correspondence study, Brother Coppock spent some time in the Training School of Bethany Seminary. He has been the presiding elder of the Sidney church besides the churches at Stonelick and Middle District.

### HARLEY M. COPPOCK

Harley M. Coppock, the son of John W. and Mary Heikes Coppock, was born on the Coppock homestead in Miami



Harley Coppock and Wife

County, Ohio, near Tipp City. His parents moved to Taylor County, Kentucky, when he was six years old, and returned to the Ohio home, which was within the bounds of the Middle District church, when he was fourteen. A short time later

he united with this church and was baptized by his uncle, Elder Jacob Coppock.

On December 5, 1905, Olive Elsie Pearson became his wife, and their home was established near Wabash, Indiana. After a year here they moved to Emporia, Kansas, and later to Hartley, Texas. In 1912 they moved to near Miami, New Mexico, where again they had access to Brethren services. In 1920 the family returned to the Ohio community.

In December 1921 the Middle District church called Brother Coppock to the ministry. He was soon made pastor of the church, without salary, and later given the oversight of the church. The pastoral responsibility lasted for more than ten years. Following this period he assumed charge of the Cincinnati church and continued for eleven years.

Sister Coppock's health calling again for a higher altitude and a different climate, the family moved to Clovis, New Mexico, and remained here two and one-half years. Then they returned to Miami, where he became pastor of the church. Later Brother Coppock's ministry was shared between the Miami and Colorado Springs churches.

While in the West he has carried many district responsibilities, and is currently field secretary and secretary for ministerial affairs of the District of Colorado. He acted for the Ministry and Home Mission Commission of the General Brotherhood Board in investigating and developing Brethren work among the Indians in Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico. Time has been given also to the organizing of the work in the Flat Creek and Turkey Creek churches in Kentucky. As this is being compiled Brother Coppock is investigating the possibility of starting work among the Negroes of a section near Austin, Texas.

Elder Coppock served as moderator of district conferences in Oklahoma and Colorado, several times on Standing Committee, and for many years on the Mission Board of Southern Ohio. He has been elder-in-charge of churches in Ohio, Kentucky, New Mexico, and Colorado.

Four sons and four daughters were born to Brother and Sister Coppock. One son, Nevin, lives on the homestead near Tipp City.



## JACOB COPPOCK

Jacob Coppock, son of Samuel and Delaney Coppock, was born on August 8, 1844, near Tipp City, Ohio.

His formal education was limited to the elementary school. However, during his active ministry he displayed unusual acquaintance with the Scriptures and Christian doctrine.

Susie Studebaker became his wife on January 16, 1868. Four girls and two sons were born to them. The two boys died in infancy. One daughter is Mrs. Galen Walker, now of Nampa, Idaho.

He became a member of the old Hickory Grove church at the age of twenty. This church made him a deacon in 1879, called him to the ministry in 1881, and ordained him an elder in 1899. His membership never was in any other congregation.

While he never was designated as a pastor his influence and services in the local church and in the district were marked. He held many evangelistic services and as an elder had charge over several churches, among them Hickory Grove, Covington, West Dayton (now Mack Memorial), East Dayton, Middle District, and Loramie. He helped establish the Brethren Home at Greenville and served on its board for several years. He helped initiate and direct the popular Sunday-school institutes of the district. His influence extended beyond this district in his service as a trustee of Manchester College. He was influential in having Otho Winger become its president.

He passed to his reward on August 11, 1925, at his home near Tipp City.

Brother Coppock was a forceful preacher, an efficient administrator, a friend of the young, a proponent of progress, a firm believer in the church, and a safe counselor.

## X. L. COPPOCK

X. L. Coppock, of Clovis, New Mexico, is a native of Southern Ohio, the Middle District congregation, and a brother of Harley M. and Claude V.

He was trained at Bethany Seminary. The first full-time



X. L. Coppock and Wife

pastor of the Greenville church, this district, he has since served in Iowa, Colorado, Missouri, Kansas, and New Mexico.

He married Martha E. Evans, of Union, Ohio, a member of the Salem congregation.

#### E. FRIEND AND MABLE MOTE COUSER

E. Friend Couser was born September 4, 1899, in Adams County, Ohio, to Elder Joseph and Phoebe Post Couser.

He graduated from Manchester Academy in 1918 and from the college in 1926, A.B. degree. Afterward he spent eighteen weeks at Bethany Biblical Seminary.

On June 3, 1922, he was married to Mabel E. Mote, of Brookville, Ohio. They have two daughters and one son.

In 1918 he was elected to the ministry by the East Dayton church and ordained an elder by the Beaver Creek congregation in 1934. After serving the Beaver Creek church as pastor from 1936 to 1947, he served the Bradford church for some time.

He was a member of the Mission Board of Southern Ohio for seven years. His vocation is that of a public-school teacher.

Mabel Couser was born in Dayton, Ohio, on May 14, 1899, to John L. and Alice Brenner Mote.



She finished high school at Brookville, Ohio, and spent three years in Manchester College.

She was licensed to the ministry in 1938 by the Beaver Creek church, and has assisted her husband in the preaching at Beaver Creek and Bradford.

In the district she spent several years on the District Women's Work Cabinet. In the local church she has been on the ministerial board and has participated in the missionary activities.



E. F. Couser and Wife



J. W. Couser and Wife

### JACOB AND MARY COUSER

Jacob Wilber Couser, son of Joseph and Phoebe Post Couser, was born at May Hill, Ohio, on July 8, 1904.

He graduated from the Bellbrook high school.

His marriage to Mary Catherine Miranda, the daughter of George and Ella Miranda, took place on September 22, 1928. They have five children: Richard Allen, Daniel Wilber, Barbara Love, James Jacob, and Cheryl Kay.



Brother and Sister Couser were elected to the ministry at the same time, March 1943, by the East Dayton church. He was ordained an elder in 1949. She was given a permanent license in 1944.

He was the teacher of the young married people's class at East Dayton for fifteen years and for three years the superintendent of the Sunday school.

In 1944 the Mission Board of Southern Ohio asked them to take over the work in the southern field: Bethany, May Hill, Strait Creek, and Marble Furnace. Since 1951 their work has been confined largely to Strait Creek and Marble Furnace.

### J. A. CROWELL

J. A. Crowell, son of Devault and Katherine Zerbe Crowell, was born near Bradford on August 12, 1876.

After finishing high school at Bradford he entered Juniata College, Pennsylvania, where he took his B.E. degree. Later he entered Columbia University, New York City, and received the M.A. degree, in education.

His marriage to Ida Mary Seibt occurred on April 27, 1904. They had two children, M. Lucile and James S.

He was elected a minister in 1901 by the Harris Creek church.

Except for a brief period as cashier of the bank at Bradford, all his life was spent in public-school work, beginning as a teacher in the rural schools of Darke County. Then he taught at Greenville and Bradford, and for two years was professor of mathematics at Juniata College. Moving to Cleveland in 1916 he became principal of the Fairmount junior high school; he remained here for twenty-five years.

Brother Crowell was a charter member of the Cleveland church and later a trustee and a member of various boards and committees.

He died in Cleveland on March 31, 1952.



## ARTHUR CUPP

Arthur Cupp, son of Edward and Gertrude Cupp, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, April 12, 1913.

He was married to Virginia Mae Arledge on January 16, 1932. They have eight sons and one daughter.

Licensed to the ministry in 1940, he was ordained on April 30, 1952, by the Circleville church.

For two years he directed the work at Charleston. He has held evangelistic meetings, and in the local church he has been a Sunday-school teacher, a trustee, and a member of the relief and missionary committees. He is employed by the county highway department.



Arthur Cupp and Wife



J. Oliver Dearing and Wife

## OLIVER DEARING

James Oliver Dearing, son of James Edward and Clellie Ann McCloney Dearing, was born September 22, 1908, near Hutsonville, Illinois.



Following completion of studies in the public schools he took work at Johnson Bible College, Tennessee.

On March 31, 1928, he married Ellen Spivey, daughter of Henry and Leah Buckle Spivey. They have six children: Mrs. Patricia Wilson, Mrs. Rosalie Barber, Mrs. Eloise Miller, Paul, Maurice, and Leroy.

Both Brother Dearing and his wife were reared in Baptist homes. Both united with the Church of the Brethren in 1932. He was elected to the ministry by the La Motte Prairie church, Southern Illinois, in April 1932. This same church ordained him an elder in October 1936.

Brother Dearing was the part-time pastor of the Kaskaskia church, Southern Illinois, 1935-43, and of the Walnut Grove church, the same district, 1943-46. In May 1946 he came to Southern Ohio as pastor of the Eversole church, remaining until September 1954, when he became pastor of the County Line church, Northwestern Ohio.

While in this district he served as reader of district conference and as one of the first members of the new District Board. He also was a member of the Men's Work Cabinet here. He has been a member of Standing Committee several times.

### WILLIAM M. DEATON

William M. Deaton is a native of Virginia; he was born near Roanoke on August 15, 1893, the son of Joseph F. and Mary Eller Deaton.

With his parents he came to this district in 1902, settling within the bounds of the former Wheatville church, Preble County.

He attended the public schools of Preble County and took some work in Manchester College and Bethany Seminary.

Elected to the ministry in December 1916 by the Wheatville church, he was ordained an elder by the Upper Twin church in October 1936.

Besides preaching in the local church and as a pulpit supply in surrounding churches, he was the pastor of the



Richmond church, Southern Indiana, from March 1931 to September 1932. Then he shared in the pastorate of the Eaton church with A. G. Crosswhite from September 1933 to September 1935. He served the Gratis church from 1936 to 1940 and again from 1944 to 1946.

He married Elizabeth Foutz, of Kitchel, Indiana, on December 14, 1916. They had six children, five of whom are now living: Daniel F., Grace Elizabeth Smith, Martha Mary Mason, John William, and Esther May Mason.

They moved to Eaton in 1951 and are active in the church there, he being a member of the building committee.



William Deaton and Wife



Allen Deeter and Wife

### ALLEN C. DEETER

Allen C. Deeter was born March 8, 1931, in Dayton, Ohio, to Raymond C. and Flora Petry Deeter. His high school training was received in the Fairview high school, Dayton, after which he entered Manchester College, graduating, A.B.



degree, in 1953. Then entering Bethany Biblical Seminary, he is a member of the class of 1955.

He married Joan Sue George, of Covington, Ohio, on August 31, 1952. She graduated from Manchester College, B.S. degree, in 1953.

His election to the ministry by the Mack Memorial church, Dayton, took place in 1951, and his ordination in August 1953.

While the Deeters are in Bethany Biblical Seminary he is acting as minister of education for the First church, Chicago. Both have taken special work at Garrett Biblical Institute and Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.

He acted as summer assistant pastor at Mack Memorial, as full-time counselor at Camp Sugar Grove one summer, and as supply minister for the churches of the district.

### EARNEST DETRICK

Earnest Detrick, the son of John and Clara Miller Detrick, was born April 24, 1913, in Darke County, Ohio.

After completing high school in Bradford, he enrolled in Manchester College, graduating with the B.S. degree in 1939. Later he attended Bethany Biblical Seminary. He has served pastorates in Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin, and the Bear Creek church, this district. He is engaged in school work in Wisconsin at this time.

He married Anna Elizabeth Beard in 1938. They have three sons, Ralph, John, and Joe.

### WILLIAM C. DETRICK

William C. Detrick was born April 16, 1879, in Miami County, Ohio, to Noah W. and Margaret Helman Detrick.

He attended the Bradford schools and then enrolled in Juniata College, Pennsylvania, and later in Angola College, Indiana, and at Indianapolis, in preparation for teaching in the commercial department of the public schools.



He taught for eighteen years in the public schools in Indiana and Ohio, including the Bradford high school, from which he had previously graduated.



W. C. Detrick and Wife

Elected to the ministry in the Covington church in 1914, he was ordained an elder in 1921 by the First church, Dayton.

His first pastorate was in the Wabash City church, Middle Indiana. Next he was the pastor of the Lick Creek church in Northwestern Ohio. After ministering to the First church, Dayton, this district, for four years, he became the pastor of the Sipesville church, Western Pennsylvania, remaining there four years. He was then pastor at Pleasant Hill for a year. For twelve years he lived in the Potsdam church, Southern Ohio, and assisted in the free ministry of that church. He moved from there to Pleasant Hill and later back to Bradford, where he now lives. Both at Pleasant Hill and at Bradford he and Sister Detrick were engaged in retailing Bibles, books, pictures, plaques, and other religious items.

His marriage to Goldie M. Wyatt, of Bradford, Ohio, took

place on May 20, 1903. They recently celebrated their fiftieth anniversary. She is also a minister, having been licensed by the Sipesville church, Pennsylvania, in 1925 and given a permanent license by the same congregation in 1926. She has been a leader of singing and music and was assistant pastor in the Lick Creek church. She was also a public-school teacher. She has been a most helpful companion to her husband-pastor.

They have two living children, Cleophas W., music instructor in the Dayton schools, and William R. A daughter, Rebecca, is deceased.

#### ARTHUR L. DODGE

Arthur L. Dodge, the son of Leonard C. and Elmina Binkley Dodge, was born at Columbus Grove, Ohio, on December 3, 1892.

He attended the academy of Manchester College.

He joined the Church of the Brethren in February 1909 in the Lima congregation, Northwestern Ohio. The Union City church, this district, elected him to the ministry in September 1919. He was ordained an elder by the Pleasant Valley church on September 12, 1925.

Gertrude Netzley became his wife on December 24, 1916. They have two children, Mrs. Mary Emery and Lowell.

For two years, 1923-25, he served the Pleasant Valley church, this district. He has served other pastorates in Northwestern Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, Northeastern Ohio, Michigan, and Southern Indiana. He is now pastor at Wakarusa, Northern Indiana.

#### DAVID S. DREDGE

David S. Dredge was born October 20, 1860, the son of John and Frances Dredge, near Springfield, Ohio. He married Sarah Jane Heck in 1884. Two sons and four daughters were born to them.



In 1895 he united with the Church of the Brethren. Elected to the ministry in 1900, he was ordained an elder in 1911.

He was the presiding elder of the New Carlisle church for fourteen years. In 1930 he traveled through Europe, Egypt, and Palestine.

His wife died in 1918. In 1934 he married Mrs. Lillian M. Price, at La Verne, California, where he lived until his death on February 21, 1947.

### FRANK EBY

Frank Eby was born near Auburn, Illinois, on April 16, 1879, the son of Noah and Elizabeth Vaniman Eby. He was married to Effie Landes on September 23, 1903. They had a son, Donald, and a daughter, Elizabeth.



Frank Eby and Wife

He was called to the ministry by the Trotwood church on September 24, 1919, and a few years later was ordained to the eldership.

In pastoral service he has been with the Middletown and Eaton churches on part time and the West Milton congregation as regular pastor.

His wife passed away in 1943. On November 5, 1944, he married Margaret Brumbaugh Smith, of West Milton, daughter of Elder and Mrs. S. L. Brumbaugh. Together they worked in the West Milton pastorate. She is at present a member of the District Cabinet of Children's Work and has taught at Camp Sugar Grove.

Their residence is now in the Salem congregation, and, while retired from the active ministry, he has been filling preaching appointments where there is need.

### J. HOWARD EIDEMILLER

J. Howard Eidemiller was born December 5, 1881, near Tipp City, Ohio, to Martin P. and Elizabeth Eidemiller. He united with the church in 1904.

His training was received in the local schools, in the Kansas State Normal, and in Bethany Biblical Seminary.

The old Hickory Grove (West Charleston) church called him to the ministry in 1907. He was ordained by the New Carlisle church in 1915.

His marriage to Nora A. Studebaker occurred on February 11, 1903. Two sons and two daughters were born to them.

After teaching school for three years he turned to the active ministry, first serving in the free ministry in the Donnels Creek and New Carlisle churches. In 1920 he was made pastor of the Beaver Creek church; he continued there for fifteen years. Then he pastored the Piqua church for five years.

Brother Eidemiller served the district in many capacities, several times on Standing Committee, as moderator of the district conference, and as a member of the Mission Board for some twenty years.

Retiring from the active ministry in 1941, he still preached on occasion and worked in the local church and Sunday school.



After three weeks in the Miami Valley Hospital, with a heart attack, he passed away on December 17, 1945.

Sister Eidemiller lives at their home just north of New Carlisle.

### JOHN EIKENBERRY

John Eikenberry was the son of Jacob and Mary Eikenberry of near Pittsburg, Ohio, born to them on November 3, 1880. When a young man he united with the Pittsburg church.

He married Kathryn Mummert, of Bradford, Ohio, on



John Eikenberry and Wife

November 26, 1903. Two daughters were born to them. One daughter, Mrs. Ruth Erbaugh, has been active in district work. The Harris Creek church installed him into the ministry in December of 1905 and ordained him an elder on July 26, 1916.

After attending the public schools of Darke County he spent two winters in Manchester College. In 1906 Brother

and Sister Eikenberry enrolled in Bethany Bible School and remained two years.

His activities in the District of Southern Ohio began as Sunday-school secretary, in which office he worked for three years. Afterward he was a member of the Sunday School Institute Committee. He has been on the Historical Committee of the district over six years and is a present member assisting in preparing the material for this volume.

In the local church he has served as Sunday-school teacher, chorister, and superintendent, with a nearly perfect attendance record. In the capacity of minister he has given service to the Harris Creek, Middletown, and Bradford churches. His residence is in the Bradford church at the present time.

#### LORREL EIKENBERRY

Lorrel S. Eikenberry, son of T. S. and Beulah Minnich Eikenberry, was born August 27, 1915, in Darke County, Ohio.

After completing high school in Darke County he entered Manchester College, graduating with the B.S. degree in 1939. In 1949 he received the B.D. degree from Bethany Biblical Seminary. He was in advertising for several years, taught four years, and did office work for the N.S.B.R.O. in Washington, D.C., and for the United Nations.

He was elected a minister in 1946 and became pastor of the Oakley church, Southern Illinois, later of the Peoria church, the same district, then of the Lanark church, Northern Illinois and Wisconsin, where he now is.

#### FLOYD C. EMRICK

Floyd C. Emrick was born in Preble County, Ohio, on June 12, 1910, the son of Clarence and Mary Ellen Emrick. He was reared in a foster home from infancy.

He attended the Monroe Township schools and enrolled in Manchester College, graduating with the B.S. degree in



1948. He attended Bethany Biblical Seminary and completed the work for the B.D. degree in 1950.

The Castine church, this district, licensed him in March of 1947. The North Bethel church, Northern Missouri, ordained him to the ministry in August 1948. He was ordained an elder by the Owl Creek church, Northeastern Ohio, in November 1952.

His marriage to Mildred Kasserman, of Lewisburg, Ohio, occurred in August 1935.

During his student days he was the assistant pastor of the Trinity Evangelical United Brethren church, Oak Park, Illinois, and the summer pastor of the North Bethel church, Missouri. Then he became pastor of the Owl Creek church, Northeastern Ohio, where he now ministers.

### LELAND B. EMRICK

Leland B. Emrick, the son of Chester D. and Mabel Brinley Emrick, was born March 20, 1917, at Eldorado, Ohio. He married Ernestine Hoff, the daughter of Brother and Sister Ernest Hoff, of Elgin, Illinois, on May 30, 1941. They have one son, Gregory Lee.

Brother Emrick took his high school work at West Manchester, Ohio, graduated from Manchester College in 1939, B.S. degree, and from Ohio State University, in 1940, M.A. degree. He taught one year at the Ohio Soldiers and Sailors Orphans Home, Xenia, and one year in the Franklin, Ohio, high school.

He was elected to the ministry at the Prices Creek church, Ohio, in 1942. He completed his seminary work at Bethany Biblical Seminary, Chicago, in 1945, receiving the B.D. degree. During part of his seminary work he pastored the Robins, Iowa, church, and took clinical training at the Elgin State Hospital, Illinois. In the summer of 1952 he took a three weeks' course at Oberlin College, Ohio, in the study of the rural church.

He was the pastor of the church at Springfield, Illinois, from 1945 to 1951, and was ordained an elder there in 1946.



In 1951 he became pastor of the Pleasant Hill church, where he still serves.

Brother Emrick has been a Standing Committeeman, a trustee of Manchester College, and a member of the Board of Administration of the District of Southern Illinois.

He acted as representative of the District of Southern Illinois on the Illinois Council of Churches, as president of the Springfield Ministerial Association, as chairman of the National Christian Teaching Mission there, and of radio and race relations committees, also as a member of the mayor's commission on human relations. He was for two years a member of the board of directors of the Springfield Y.M.C.A.

Brother Emrick is one of our Southern Ohio sons, working efficiently with one of our good churches.



Leland Emrick and Wife



Roy Engle and Wife

### ROY G. ENGLE

Roy G. Engle, the son of Harvey E. and Minnie Denlinger Engle, was born April 27, 1897, near Dayton, Ohio.



He attended elementary and high school in Montgomery County, receiving his high school diploma in 1915. He took a year's normal school training and then taught for three years. Then he attended Bethany Seminary and Manchester College, graduating with the A.B. degree from the latter in 1925. He returned to Bethany Seminary in 1927 and was granted the B.D. degree in 1930.

He was licensed to the ministry by the Happy Corner church, this district, in 1924. There he was installed into the full ministry in 1926 and ordained an elder on May 15, 1935.

On December 24, 1925, he was married to Orpha Diehl, of Trotwood, Ohio. The first year of their married life was spent in pastoral work in the Cassel Run and Rennels Run churches in the southern part of Ohio, under the direction of the Mission Board of the district. Following this they went to Bethany Seminary, as indicated above.

In 1931 they located near Hart, Michigan, serving the Hart church on a part-time basis while teaching school. In 1934 they returned to this district, to the Happy Corner church, where he shared with others in the pulpit ministry. In 1943 they moved into the Prices Creek congregation, where he was pastor for three years, and where they still reside. He was the supply pastor for the Brethren church in West Alexandria for a few months and has also supplied for other churches in Southern Ohio. He is at present serving the district on the Credential Committee.

They have three daughters, Evelyn, Deloris, and Esther, the oldest of whom is married and lives in Lewisburg, Ohio.

### CLARENCE G. ERBAUGH

Clarence G. Erbaugh was born near New Lebanon, Ohio, on November 21, 1882, the son of Elder Samuel and Barbara Bookwalter Erbaugh.

He united with the Wolf Creek church in October 1898. He was elected to the ministry in the Eversole church May 3, 1917, and made an elder in 1921.

Besides his training in the public schools he took work in both Manchester College and Bethany Biblical Seminary.



He married Clara Horning of the Eversole church on May 3, 1917. They have two daughters, Naomi and Ruth, the former being the wife of Brother Paul Kinsel, pastor of the Trotwood church. Both are graduates of Manchester College.

Brother Erbaugh has had pastoral charge of Stonelick, Middletown, Eaton, and Pleasant Valley in this district. Also he has been the elder of Middletown, Eversole, Constance (Kentucky), Charleston, Circleville, Columbus, Stonelick, Marble Furnace, and Flat Creek (Kentucky).

He has been on the Credential Committee for Annual Conference, and on both the Ministerial Board and the Mission Board of Southern Ohio. Recently he has served as fieldman for Manchester College. He resides near the Eversole church, of which he is the present elder.



C. G. Erbaugh and Wife



Howard Erbaugh and Wife

### HOWARD F. ERBAUGH

Howard F. Erbaugh, the son of Samuel A. and Barbara Bookwalter Erbaugh, was born March 20, 1897, near Liberty,



Montgomery County, Ohio. He was the youngest of four sons, three of whom were ministers and one a deacon. His father was a member of the District Mission Board for ten years.

Always active in his local church, Bear Creek, he took a special interest in the promotion and development of Men's Work in the district. Consequently he was chosen chairman of Men's Work for the district, and also served two terms on the National Council of Men's Work.

With other laymen, in 1942 he began the work at Turkey Creek, Kentucky, which resulted later in establishing a church at this place.

Brother Erbaugh was called to the ministry by the Hamilton church in 1947. He continued with this church for some time and then assisted in the Turkey Creek mission until a resident minister could be obtained. For the last five years he has been the pastor of the Bradford church.

### ORION ERBAUGH

Orion Erbaugh, a native of Montgomery County, Ohio, was born April 19, 1885, to Samuel and Barbara Bookwalter Erbaugh.

He graduated from the local high school and after some years took one term in Bethany Biblical Seminary.

He united with the church at Trotwood, and was elected to the ministry on March 31, 1937, and ordained an elder in 1941 by this congregation.

His marriage to Omy Ethel Kuns occurred on January 11, 1911. To them two children were born, Eleanor and Richard.

Brother Erbaugh was a builder and contractor for years. His service in the district began with his election to the Mission Board in 1930, on which he served continuously for ten years, much of this time as its secretary.

He became pastor of the Constance, Kentucky, church in 1936 and served this church until his death. During the last two years the Hamilton church was joined with the Constance church under his leadership. At the time of his decease, December 16, 1944, he was secretary of the Hamilton

city ministerial association. He passed away at the home of one of the members of the Hamilton parish while engaged in a pastoral call.



Orion Erbaugh and Wife

As a builder he directed the construction of the Bethany and Hamilton churches, and assisted in the remodeling of the East Dayton, Middletown, and Constance churches.

### DWIGHT FARRINGER

Leland Dwight Farringer was born May 28, 1927, at Lena, Illinois, to Roy D. and Lula Lutz Farringer.

After completing his high school training he entered Manchester College, receiving the B.S. degree in 1947 and the A.B. degree in 1949. In 1952 he was granted the B.D. degree by Bethany Biblical Seminary.

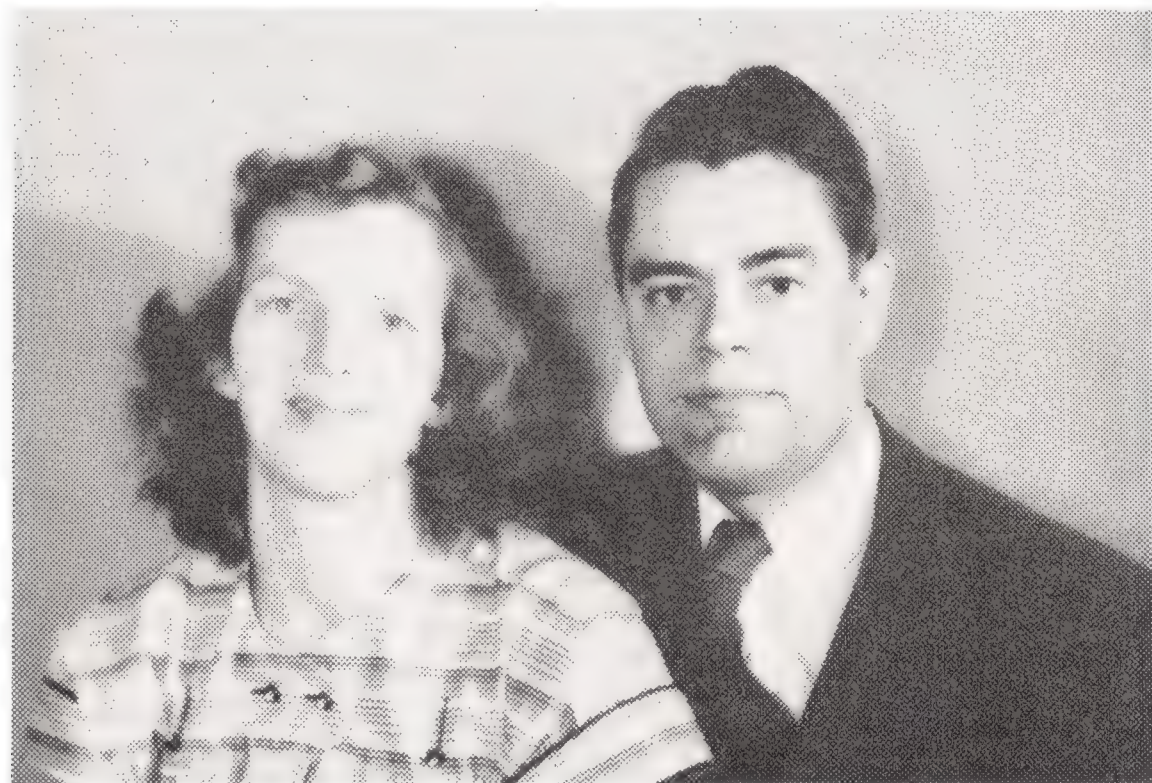
He married Helen Naomi Halladay, of Darke County, Ohio, on August 29, 1950. She is the daughter of Ralph B. and Mary Halladay, of the Poplar Grove church.

Brother Farringer was licensed to the ministry in 1945 and ordained in 1949 by the Yellow Creek church, Northern Illinois and Wisconsin. He was summer pastor of the Franklin church, Southern Iowa, in 1951.

While a student at Manchester College he was an assistant in the physics department; at Bethany Seminary he



assisted in speech; and he is now a part-time assistant and graduate student in physics at Ohio State University. In the fall of 1954 he became the first director of the Brethren Student Center in Columbus.



Dwight Farringer and Wife

### JOHN W. FIDLER

John W. Fidler was born April 28, 1875, near Sulpher Grove, Ohio, to Joseph and Lydia Fidler.

He attended the schools of Bethel Township, Miami County, and spent parts of two winters in the Training School of Bethany Biblical Seminary.

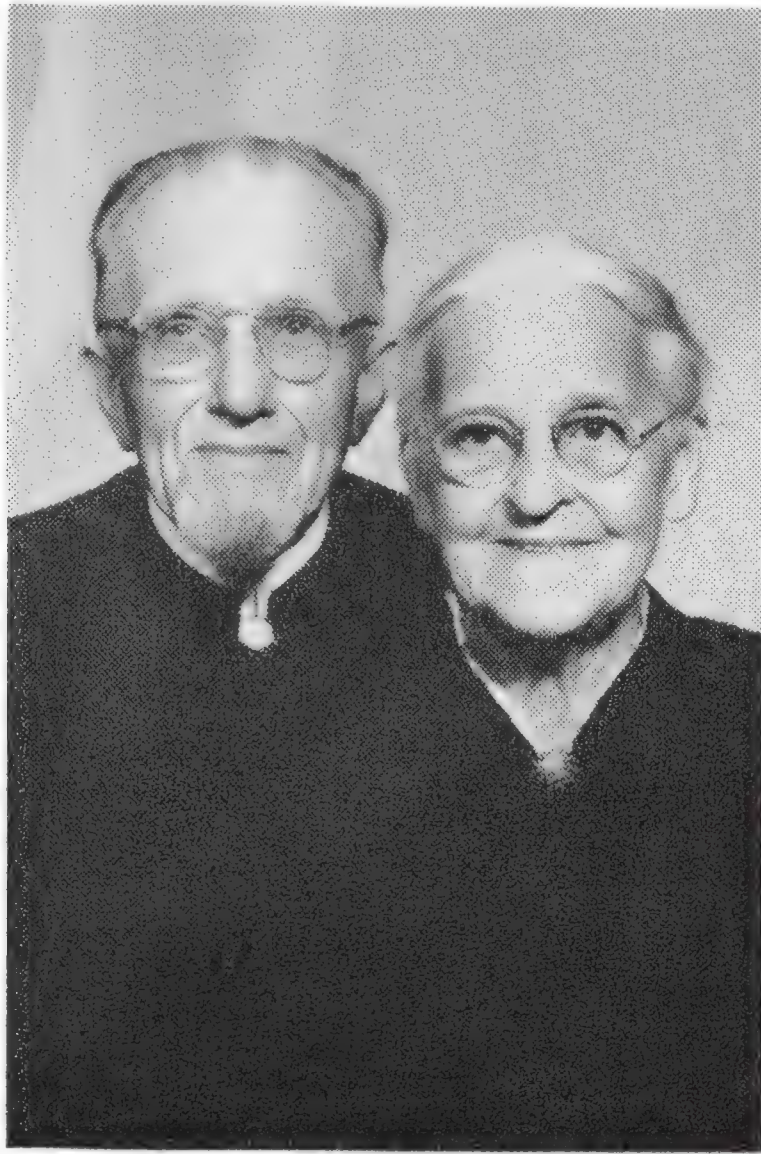
On April 29, 1896, he married Olive M. Mishler of Brookville, Ohio. They have two children, Paul J. and Mrs. Miriam Wilson, who with her husband is a missionary in Africa.

The Salem church called him to the ministry in 1898; he was ordained an elder by the Wolf Creek congregation in 1907.

His active ministry began with his becoming pastor of the East Dayton church in 1908, where he continued until 1912. Then he was pastor and elder of the Brookville church for twenty-four years. He has also served as elder of the Cincinnati, Constance (Kentucky), Troy, East Dayton, and Trotwood churches.



For the district he was a member of the Mission Board for about fifteen years, has been clerk and moderator for district conferences, and has represented the district many times on Standing Committee.



J. W. Fidler and Wife

He has engaged in farming and has held many evangelistic meetings throughout the Brotherhood.

His first wife died in 1936. On November 9, 1941, he married Mrs. Anna Miller, of Sebring, Florida.

They reside at Brookville and spend the winters at Sebring, Florida.

### FAYETTE FIELDS

Fayette Fields, son of Robert and Sarah Elizabeth Fields, was born at Laura, Kentucky, on January 14, 1913.

He completed high school at Inez, Kentucky, took the B.S. degree in 1937 at Western Kentucky State College, and was



awarded his M.A. in 1950. He also had one summer term at George Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee.

He was married at Scottsville, Kentucky, to Virginia Opal Nichols on January 25, 1936. They have two children, Virginia Faye and Glenna Kathryn.



Fayette Fields and Wife

His election to the ministry occurred at Laura in November of 1935. The Turkey Creek church ordained him in 1946. He assisted in the ministry in the Kentucky field, at Wolfe Creek, Rock House, and Turkey Creek.

They moved to Wichita, Kansas, where he is the principal of the Linwood elementary school and is active in the church. He has been the Sunday-school superintendent in the local church and a member of the ministerial, finance, and Christian education boards and committees.

### LESTER E. FIKE

Lester E. Fike was born July 10, 1897, at Eglon, West Virginia, to Phineas L. and Sarah Beachy Fike.

He received his elementary education in the grade schools of West Virginia and Missouri. His high school work was done at Lewis Institute, Chicago. Then, enrolling in



Bethany Bible School, he graduated with the B.S.L. degree in 1928.

His marriage to Elna Hylton, daughter of Elder Joseph B. and Orlena Belle Collier Hylton, of Ava, Missouri, took place on June 3, 1923. They have two daughters, Faye Kathleen (now Mrs. D. Merrill Mow, of Chicago) and Elsie Belle (now Mrs. Clyde C. Fry, of Naperville, Illinois).



Lester Fike and Wife

Brother Fike was made a Sunday-school superintendent at the age of eighteen. He was elected a minister at Peace Valley, Missouri, in April 1928. This same church made him an elder on August 22, 1928. He served this church, and also the Fernald church, Iowa, in the free ministry.

As a pastor Brother Fike has served the following churches: Seneca congregation, Onego, West Virginia, summer pastorates; Fairchance, Pennsylvania, 1924-25, full time; Second South Bend, Indiana, 1926-28, as student pastor; Jasper, Missouri, joint pastorate with Carthage, 1929-31, part time; Clovis, New Mexico, 1934-37, part time; Astoria, Illinois,



1937-44; Woodland, Illinois, nine months, 1938-39, and nine months, 1940-41; Circleville and Charleston, this district, 1944-46. He was called to Springfield in 1946 and led that congregation until 1951, when he was called to serve East Dayton. He left this church and the district in September 1954 to serve the Nettle Creek congregation, Southern Indiana. In addition to being the pastor he served a number of churches in Missouri, New Mexico, Illinois, Ohio, and Indiana as elder.

Serving the districts he was secretary of the Ministerial Board of Southern Missouri and held the same office in Oklahoma, Panhandle of Texas, and New Mexico. When he came to Southern Ohio he again served as secretary of the Ministerial Board and was one of the first members of the new District Board, being made secretary of the Commission on Ministry, Missions and Church Extension.

Brother Fike was the moderator of district meetings in Texas, Oklahoma, and Southern Illinois, and was the moderator-elect for this district when he removed to Southern Indiana. He was several times a member of the Standing Committee, and has been active in the local ministerial associations in communities in which he has resided.

### PARKER M. FILBRUN

Parker M. Filbrun, son of Daniel W. and Sarah J. Filbrun, was born March 1, 1880, in Madison Township, Montgomery County, Ohio.

He was educated in the local schools, supplemented by several terms at Bethany Biblical Seminary.

His marriage to Mandie Garber took place on December 2, 1903. Two daughters were born to them, Velma and Marie.

He was elected to the ministry in 1909 and ordained an elder in 1916 by his local church, Bear Creek. He pastored the home church for ten years, 1922-32, and was its elder for twenty-four years, 1924-48. He served on the District Apportionment Committee for many years.

In 1933 he toured Palestine on a Y.M.C.A. tour and made a trip around the world in 1937, again visiting Palestine.



Parker Filbrun

His wife passed away December 7, 1934. He married Anna Coffman in 1937. He died suddenly of a heart attack on November 9, 1953, at his home near the Bear Creek church.

### C. KENNETH FISHER

C. Kenneth Fisher was born August 22, 1922, in Lawrence County, Illinois, to Charles Ernest and Ruby Benson Fisher.

He completed high school in the township schools.

On August 23, 1940, he was married to Blanche Ruth Ducharm. They have five children: Charles Edward, Robert Dean, Donald Lee, Nancy Ann, and Patricia Sue.

He was elected to the ministry in 1939 by the Allison Prairie church in Southern Illinois and was ordained a minister in 1944. His ordination to the eldership took place



in 1953 in the Turkey Creek church, Southern Ohio District.

The churches he has served include Allison Prairie, La Motte Prairie, and Kaskaskia in Southern Illinois, and Buck Creek and New Hope in Southern Indiana. He came to the Turkey Creek church in the fall of 1953 and is there at this time.

### EVERETT R. FISHER

Everett R. Fisher was born January 18, 1896, in Miami County, Indiana, to Harry B. and Carrie Himelick Fisher.

He completed high school at Peru, Indiana, in 1915 and graduated from Manchester College, Indiana, in 1920, A.B.



E. R. Fisher and Wife

degree. He took the B.D. degree from Bethany Biblical Seminary in 1922.

His marriage to Cora L. Heestand took place on September 12, 1920, at Nappanee, Indiana. They have three children, Glen, Evelyn, and Esther.

The Mexico, Indiana, congregation called him to the ministry on September 15, 1919. In November 1922 the church at La Porte, Indiana, ordained him an elder.

Beginning his ministry at La Porte, he has served Broadwater, Southern Missouri; Grand Valley, at Grand Junction, Colorado; Hart, Michigan; Four Mile, Southern Indiana;



Trotwood, this district (fourteen years); and Huntington, Middle Indiana, where he continues at the present.

In this district he was a member of the Board of Christian Education for ten years, moderator of district conference, and the district's representative on Standing Committee.

He also was active in the religious education department of the Ohio Council of Churches and in the co-operative work of the Greater Dayton Federation of Churches while living in this district.

### JOEL CEPHAS FLORA

Joel Cephas Flora is a native of Virginia, and a descendant of Jacob Flora, Sr., who came to Franklin County, Virginia, about 1786 and who was the progenitor of many ministers,



J. C. Flora and Wife

missionaries, and church leaders. He was born to Benjamin F. and Elizabeth Belle Flora, in Franklin County, Virginia, on January 8, 1879.



Uniting with the Valley church when he was seventeen years old, he was elected to the ministry in 1908 by the Huntingdon church, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. The West Charleston church, this district, ordained him an elder on July 11, 1920.

He attended Daleville Academy, Daleville, Virginia, and received the A.B. degree from Juniata College, Pennsylvania, in 1908. Subsequently he attended three summer terms in Chicago University and Columbia University. He taught a total of eleven years, three years in the public schools of Roanoke, Virginia, three in Daleville College, Virginia, and five in Blue Ridge College, Maryland.

On June 14, 1911, he was married to Elizabeth Garver, of Trotwood, Ohio, daughter of Elder D. M. Garver. A daughter was born to them, Mary Elizabeth, now the wife of Ivan L. Eikenberry; she and her husband are Church of the Brethren missionaries in Nigeria. Their biographies appear elsewhere in this history.

His eleven years of teaching were matched by eleven years of pastoral work, in which the following churches shared: Hagerstown, Middle Maryland, 1911-12; Moxham, Western Pennsylvania, 1917-19; West Charleston, Southern Ohio, 1919-25; Pleasant Hill, Southern Ohio, 1925-27. He also ministered on a part-time basis to the West Charleston and Troy churches. For twenty-three years he was the elder of the West Charleston church, of which he and his family were members.

Following the last full-time pastorate, in 1927 they moved to the farm home in Wayne Township, Montgomery County. In 1954 they moved to Trotwood.

Brother Flora has just recently completed gathering the data and publishing the history of the family of Jacob Flora, Sr., beginning with the coming of his father, Joseph Flora, to America in 1733.

### CHARLES L. FLORY

Charles L. Flory was born December 2, 1872, near Phillipsburg, Ohio, to John and Millie Younce Flory.

After completing his high school training at West Milton, he took some training at Bethany Biblical Seminary.

He was elected to the ministry by the Salem church on March 26, 1907, and ordained an elder on June 3, 1916. He never removed his membership from this church, though he served several surrounding churches.

On October 22, 1896, he was married to Mary Catherine Brumbaugh, of Darke County, Ohio. Four children were born to them: Emmert, Mrs. Naomi Heestand, Mrs. Bessie McComb, and John.

His wife died on August 24, 1925. On September 1, 1927, he married Sister Etta Helman.

He began his pastoral ministry in the Pleasant Hill church in 1913, continuing until 1919. From 1919 to 1926 he led the Oakland church. During the next two years he assisted the Pitsburg and Loramie churches. From 1928 to 1934 he worked with the Piqua church. During the last five years of this time this church was yoked with the Troy church. From 1934 to the time of his death he gave his time to the Troy congregation.

Besides the services rendered as pastor, Brother Flory served the district in various capacities. He was on Standing Committee several times, was a member of the Ministerial Board for some years, was on the Comity Committee, and also was moderator and writing clerk of district conference. He presided as elder of several churches in the district, and held many evangelistic services.

His death occurred on May 12, 1941.

### EZRA FLORY

Ezra Flory, a native of Miami County, Ohio, was born January 5, 1870, to John and Millie Younce Flory.

After finishing his high school training he attended the Hartford School of Religious Pedagogy, Bethany Biblical Seminary, Manchester College, and the Southern Baptist Divinity School. He held the following degrees: Pd.B., B.D.,



A.M., and Th.D. He taught school for nine years and was a telephone company employee for six years.

He was married to Emma Brumbaugh in 1893, and, after her decease, to her sister Martha in 1905. They had four children: Margaret, Miriam, James, and Paul.

Brother Flory was elected as a minister in 1901, ordained an elder in 1910, and rendered pastoral service in Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan. He served the Brotherhood as General Sunday School Secretary for eight years and was well known as a writer and lecturer. His death occurred in February 1940.

### ROLLAND F. FLORY

Rolland F. Flory was born in Defiance County, Ohio, on April 26, 1895. He was the son of John and Mary Shock Flory. His father was an elder in the Northwestern Ohio District.

After finishing high school he entered Manchester College, graduating, A.B. degree, in 1916.

He was elected to the ministry on June 17, 1916, by the North Poplar Ridge church, Northwestern Ohio. He was ordained to the eldership at Pleasant Valley, this district, in 1920.

During 1917 and 1918 he was the pastor of the Seattle, Washington, church, teaching also in the Chinese mission there. Returning to Ohio, he became the first pastor of Pleasant Valley. He remained here three years and then turned to a teaching career, first as principal of the Monroe Township schools, Darke County, and then as superintendent of the Sinking Springs schools, Ohio, in 1923. In 1928 he became superintendent of the Enon schools, Clark County, Ohio, and later of the Lawrenceville schools, same county.

While in schoolwork in Darke County he served in the capacity of free minister in the Pittsburg church. While at Sinking Springs he took charge of the work at Marble Furnace and Strait Creek. In 1929 he became part-time pastor of the Donnels Creek church, carrying this responsibility along with his schoolwork. He was both pastor and elder here for about

seventeen years. The erection of the new structure took place during this period.

After completing thirty-three years in schoolwork in Ohio he moved to Florida and became an instructor in the Orlando high school.

He was married to Goldie E. Kreider of the Painter Creek church on March 3, 1917. Her father was Elder Lawrence Kreider, of this district. She was a very efficient leader of music, serving both in local churches where they resided and in district gatherings.

They had five children born to them: Rolland, Jr. (a minister), Mrs. Ruth Engle, Laurell and Merrill (twins), and Herbert. The children are all members of the Donnels Creek congregation.

### JOHN CLYDE FORNEY

John Clyde Forney is a native of Kansas, being the son of S. Benjamin and Anna Patton Forney, born to them on October 29, 1891, at Abilene.

After attending the public schools he was a student at Bethany Biblical Seminary from 1911 to 1913. He then enrolled in the academy of McPherson College, Kansas, and then in the college, completing his training for the A.B. degree in 1919. Following graduation he entered Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Connecticut, and graduated in 1923 with the B.D. degree. In 1947 McPherson College conferred on him the honorary D.D. degree.

He united with the Church of the Brethren at Navarre, Kansas, in 1903, was elected to the ministry April 26, 1914, and was ordained an elder in 1943 by the Central church, Roanoke, Virginia.

His marriage to Ruth Frantz Brubaker of McPherson, Kansas, took place on June 8, 1920. They have three children, two sons and one daughter.

He began his professional service for the Church of the



Brethren as district Sunday-school secretary for Southwestern Kansas. He was pastor of the West Wichita church in 1917, and was the McPherson College evangelist to 1919. Then he became director of Christian education for Northeastern Kansas to 1920. In 1923 he became pastor of the Lanark church, Northern Illinois and Wisconsin, remaining here until 1925.



J. Clyde Forney and Wife

In 1925 he went to the First church, South Bend, Northern Indiana. In 1934 he was called to the Elgin church, Illinois, continuing here eight years. In 1942 he began a seven-year pastorate in the Central church, Roanoke, First Virginia. It was in 1949 that he came to Southern Ohio as pastor of the Beaver Creek church, in the suburban section of Dayton.

He has served on the district boards of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin, Northern Indiana, First Virginia, and Southern Ohio. Three times he was a member of Standing Committee and four times a member of national committees appointed by Annual Conference. During the early part of World War II he was on leave from the Elgin church to direct the opening of the civilian public service camp at Lagro, Indiana. For

many years he has been a director of summer camps and a teacher in them. He is the chairman of the District Board of this district.

### CHARLES O. FORROR

Charles O. Forror is a native of Darke County, Ohio, born January 14, 1889, to Elam and Mary Cook Forror.

He entered Bethany Bible School in 1910, taking the Bible training course, and remained until 1914. Then followed two winter terms at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee.

Brother Forror was married to Elizabeth Hoff, who died in 1924. In May 1925 he married Ardeth Conover. A son, Kenneth, is a doctor in California.

He was installed into the ministry in 1920. After serving the Pleasant Valley church from 1922 to 1924, he moved to Michigan to be the pastor of the Lake View church and act as fieldworker for the District of Michigan.

Ordained to the eldership by the Lake View church, Brethren, Michigan, in 1927, he subsequently presided over several of the surrounding churches. He was a member of the District Mission Board, 1928-37, and was later a member of the Council of Boards. He was also the writing clerk at three district conferences.

Moving to California, he ministered to the San Diego church from 1937 to 1944, where he continues to live.

### HAROLD FREEMAN

Harold Freeman is a native of Adams County, Ohio, where he was born June 24, 1918, to Selba and Orpha Freeman.

He married Thelma Payne of Ironton, Ohio, on May 22, 1941. They have an adopted son, Russell.

The Bethany church licensed him to preach on January 14, 1951, and ordained him to the ministry on April 3, 1952.



He has been serving as pastor of the Bethany church since October 1951, under the direction of the District Board.



Harold Freeman and Wife

He is currently enrolled for work in the American Correspondence School, Chicago, and plans to enter Bethany Biblical Seminary in September 1955.

### DARRELL C. FRYMAN

Darrell C. Fryman was born June 18, 1918, near Jaysville, Ohio, to Calvin and Sylvia Fryman.

After graduation from the Arcanum high school he entered Manchester College, from which he graduated, A.B. degree, in 1946. He received the B.D. degree from Bethany Biblical Seminary in 1949.

On June 4, 1944, he was married to Betty Louise Jay, of Pleasant Hill, Ohio. They have two children, James Darrell and Mary Louise.

The Greenville church ordained him to the ministry in



June of 1946. He served the Michigan City church, Indiana, from 1949 to 1953; then he became the pastor of the Arcadia church, Southern Indiana, where he is at present.

While in Michigan City he served as president of the city ministerial association and was a leader at Camp Mack. He is now a member of the Children's Work Cabinet of Southern Indiana.

### CYRUS FUNDERBURG

Cyrus Funderburg, the son of George and Mary Denlinger Funderburg, was born on March 31, 1881, near the Donnels Creek church, Clark County, and has always lived there.



Cyrus Funderburg and Wife

After attending the schools of Pike Township he enrolled in Manchester College, completing the training for a diploma from the commercial department.

Uniting with the Donnels Creek church, he later became an officer in the Sunday school. He was elected a deacon in 1907 and a minister in 1914, was advanced in 1915, and was ordained an elder in 1917. He was assistant elder of the church for some years prior to 1926, when he was chosen elder-in-charge; he served six years more in this capacity.

Emma Studebaker, of New Carlisle, became his wife on May 27, 1903. They celebrated their golden wedding an-



niversary in 1953. They have two sons and two daughters: Edna, Glen, Ruth, and Alvin. Ruth has been on the Board of Christian Education. Glen is a deacon at Donnels Creek.

Brother Funderburg served the district on the Apportionment Committee, as Sunday-school secretary, and as missionary secretary, and helped arrange for several summer assemblies. His hobby is the writing of poetry.

### DRUE D. FUNDERBURG

Drue D. Funderburg, son of William H. and Carrie Drescher Funderburg, was born near New Carlisle, Ohio, on September 8, 1889. He was the great-grandson of Elder John



D. D. Funderburg and Wife

Frantz; his maternal grandparents came here from Germany.

He united with the Church of the Brethren at Donnels Creek at the age of thirteen, and later became a charter member of the New Carlisle church when this congregation was formed. The Donnels Creek congregation elected him to

the ministry in 1911 and ordained him an elder in 1917.

After completing his high school work he attended Manchester College, graduating with the A.B. degree in 1917. He then went to Bethany Biblical Seminary and took his B.D. degree in 1921. Following this he took a year of graduate work at Northwestern University and a summer at the Chicago University Divinity School.

After graduation from Bethany Seminary he was a member of the seminary faculty from 1921 to 1930, directing the practical field work of the students and teaching some courses in practical theology. Then he spent a number of years soliciting funds for the seminary.

In 1929 he began to work for the District of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin as field secretary on a part-time basis. From 1930 to 1936 he was the pastor of the Rockford, Illinois, church, combining the pastoral work with the field work.

Going to Elgin in 1936 as the national director of adult education, he continued in the employ of the Board of Christian Education in this capacity for seven years. Then followed three years in the administration of the civilian public service program for the Brethren Service Commission. From 1946 to 1949 he was the director of the New Windsor Relief Center.

Brother Funderburg has been on the Standing Committee twice and has acted as elder-in-charge of ten different churches and as part-time pastor of the Troy church, this district.

He married Forest Ethel Denlinger of Miami County, Ohio, on May 11, 1913. She also took training in Bethany Biblical Seminary. They have two married daughters, Frances Irene Farling and Cordelia Mae Browning.

They live in Troy, Ohio, and he is at present the director of leadership training for this district.

### JESSE O. GARST

Jesse O. Garst, editor of the former Southern Ohio history, was the son of Elias and Maria Eversole Garst; he was born on October 18, 1868, just east of Dayton, Ohio.



He completed his high school work in Montgomery County and taught school and attended Ohio Northern University, Ada, Ohio, alternately, receiving the A.B. degree there in 1892 and the A.M. degree in 1895.

On March 23, 1893, he married Eliza A. Huffer. They had three children, John M., Grace G., and Lawrence A. The two sons are ministers and elders in the Church of the Brethren.

His election to the ministry occurred in June 1895, he having been a deacon since 1893. On June 2, 1910, he was ordained an elder. The Lower Miami church claimed him as a member soon after his marriage and since; he was the elder of this church for several years. He held many evangelistic meetings.

He was a member of the Ministerial Board of the district and also for two terms a member of the Mission Board. While a member of the latter board he served as elder of Middletown and Springfield and the Highland and Adams County churches. He was nonresident pastor and elder of the East Dayton church for three years.

Brother Garst died in 1938, the last of the members of the committee responsible for the former history to pass on.

### JOHN M. GARST

John M. Garst, son of Elder Jesse O. and Eliza Huffer Garst, was born in Jefferson Township, Montgomery County, Ohio, on June 6, 1896. He completed high school here and attended the Montgomery County Normal, then began teaching in the schools of the same township.

He graduated, A.B. degree, from Manchester College in 1922, and in 1930 received the A.M. degree from Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio.

He was married to Naomi Virgil Beery, of Liberty, Indiana, on May 26, 1917. She was the daughter of Brother and Sister N. V. Beery. They have two daughters, Genevieve and Dorothy.

The Lower Miami church elected him to the ministry



on June 6, 1917. He was made an elder by the Lexington church, Highland County, in 1924.

Brother Garst served his home church first as Sunday-school superintendent for three years and later as part-time pastor for twelve years. He was pastor of the Lexington church for several years while also serving as principal of the local schools. In 1930 he became elder and pastor of the Stonelick church, where he has now served for twenty-five years. He also teaches in the Dayton schools. His home is near the Lower Miami church.



John Garst and Wife



Lawrence Garst and Wife

### LAWRENCE A. GARST

Lawrence A. Garst, a son of Jesse O. and Eliza Garst, was born near Dayton on August 8, 1909.

He completed high school in Jefferson Township, Montgomery County, and entered Manchester College, graduating with the A.B. degree in 1932.



His marriage to Orpha Brubaker, of Virden, Illinois, took place on December 25, 1931. They have two children, Joan and Richard.

The Lower Miami church called him to the ministry in 1927 and ordained him an elder in 1936.

Brother Garst pastored the Gratis church from 1932 to 1936, and until a full-time pastor was secured in 1950 he assisted in the work at Lower Miami.

He is a teacher and administrator in the public schools.

### DANIEL M. GARVER

Daniel M. Garver, son of Elder George and Margaret Miller Garver, was born August 30, 1856, in Montgomery County, Ohio.

On December 31, 1878, he married Mary L. Eby. They had four children. Three are living, Mrs. J. C. Flora, Mrs. Alva Gump, and Ralph.

A member of the Bear Creek church since 1882, he was made a deacon in 1883 and a minister in 1884. The Lower Twin church ordained him an elder in 1898.

Moving to Trotwood in 1909, he became elder of the church here and was the leader of the congregation for many years.

He held many evangelistic meetings, had a great deal to do with establishing and directing several mission churches of Southern Ohio, and was an outstanding leader in the district and throughout the Brotherhood.

For some twenty-five years Brother Garver was a member of the District Mission Board, and many new points owe their existence and growth to his efforts and counsel. He represented the district many times on Standing Committee. As moderator of district conference several times he was accepted as one of the best. He was a member of the Historical Committee that brought out the 1920 history of the district. He was one of Southern Ohio's strongest leaders.

Brother Garver was an early member of the General Educational Board of the Church of the Brethren, was three

times the moderator of Annual Conference, and many times was appointed by Annual Conference as a member of committees to churches needing guidance.

His death occurred on November 18, 1926, at Trotwood.

### GERALD C. GIBBONEY

Gerald C. Gibboney was born at Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania, on March 19, 1909, to Samuel J. and Nancy Smith Gibboney.

His education was concluded with his high school work in the Bradford, Ohio, schools.

He married Priscilla Warner Rhoades of Phillipsburg, Ohio, on November 22, 1930. They have two children, Elaine Marcia and Sharon Ann.



Gerald Gibboney and Wife

The Salem church elected him to the ministry on February 9, 1942. He has assisted, in the free ministry, these churches: Fort McKinley, Lower Miami, and Middle District.



He is employed by the International Envelope Corporation, which manufactures stamped envelopes for the United States Post Office Department.

### JOHN HARVEY GOOD

John Harvey Good, son of Jesse Clayton and Lucy Gellispie Good, was born near Marengo, Iowa, on March 21, 1895. At the age of six he moved with his parents to Mont-



John Good and Wife

gomery County, Ohio, where he attended public schools, graduating from high school in 1914. The year following he attended the county normal school and qualified for teaching. He then taught two years in Montgomery County.

On January 20, 1917, Emma Viola Fuls, of Jackson Township, Montgomery County, became his companion. Three daughters have been born to the couple. There are five grandchildren. Following their marriage they engaged in farming for four years.

They became members of the West Alexandria church (then Sugar Hill) while farming near there. This church called Brother Good to the ministry in March 1919. Plans were made at once to prepare for the responsibilities of the ministry; they entered Manchester College the following fall, graduating with the class of 1924. Upon graduation Brother Good became pastor of the Stony Creek church, Northwestern Ohio, where he remained over five years. During this time he spent one summer in special study at Bethany Seminary. He was ordained at Stony Creek in 1927.

In September 1929 he became the part-time pastor of the West Alexandria church. After two years he became pastor of the Springfield, Ohio, church and continued here a total of fifteen years. While here he took further special training at Hamma Divinity School. In 1946 Brother Good and his wife returned to the West Alexandria church, where they continue to serve.

While in Northwestern Ohio he held membership briefly on both the Welfare Board and the Ministerial Board of the district. In his home district Elder Good has been on the Welfare Board, the Board of Christian Education, and the Mission Board, and is at present a member of the recently formed District Board.

He has also served Southern Ohio as reading clerk and as district secretary and has represented the district on the Standing Committee four times. He has been elder-in-charge of many churches of the district through the years. Wherever located he was active in the local ministerial associations. He has engaged in evangelism in twenty-six churches in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Michigan.

### JONAS G. GROFF

Jonas G. Groff was born August 1, 1887, within the bounds of the North Star congregation (disorganized in 1919). His parents were Elder Nathan D. and Emma Patterson Groff.

He began teaching school at eighteen years of age. After four years he spent one summer in Manchester College and



two years at Lebanon College, Ohio. He taught two years in the high school at Oregonia, Ohio, four years in Darke County, Ohio, and five years in the Galion, Ohio, schools. Then he returned to Southern Ohio as a teacher in the Dayton school system and has completed over thirty years at the Roosevelt



Jonas Groff and Wife

school. He took one year off from teaching to finish his training, graduating from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, in 1914.

Gertrude Hittle of Rossburg, Ohio, became his wife in 1911. They have two children, Wilbur K. and Zelma. They live at Johnsville, Ohio.

He became a member of the North Star church, was elected to the ministry by the West Alexandria church in April 1931, and was ordained an elder in 1933. He served as part-time pastor of this church from 1931 to 1941 and has been elder of the church since 1933.

He was a member of the Historical Committee of Southern Ohio for several years. His son, Wilbur K. Groff, is a present member of this committee.

## JOHN B. GUMP

John B. Gump is the son of Elder Henry and Lydia Studebaker Gump, of Miami County, Ohio; he was born on May 22, 1873.

After attending the Bethel Township and Tipp City schools, Miami County, he later attended Juniata College.



John B. Gump and Wife

He united with the Church of the Brethren at Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, in 1893. His activity in the church began in the Sunday school as a teacher and then as a superintendent. He was installed into the ministry in 1904 and was ordained in 1911.

Brother Gump followed the teaching profession for ten years. In the free ministry he served in his home churches, Hickory Grove, West Charleston, and New Carlisle. He has filled appointments at Troy, East Dayton, Sidney, Loramie, and Circleville and has been the elder of the Casstown and New Carlisle churches.

He married Emma Funderburg of New Carlisle on Feb-



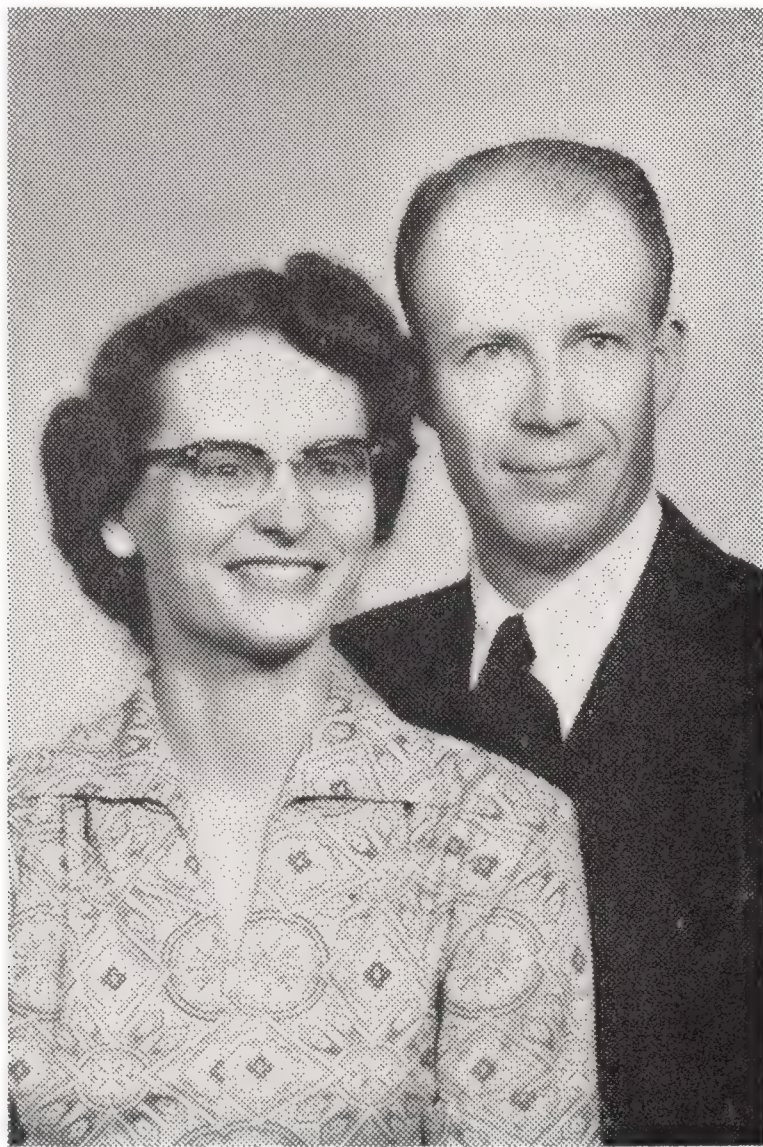
ruary 22, 1900. They have three daughters: Paulena, instructor in the Cleveland schools; Mrs. John E. Stoner, whose husband is on the faculty of Indiana University; and Mrs. Russel J. Compton, whose husband is on the faculty of Purdue University.

For fifteen years Brother Gump was a member of the board of trustees of the Brethren Home at Greenville, much of that time in charge of the children's department.

The Gumps retired in New Carlisle, where they have lived since.

### ELLIS G. GUTHRIE

Ellis G. Guthrie was born near LaFayette, Ohio, to Joseph L. and Elsie R. Guthrie, on October 10, 1922. His father and



Ellis Guthrie and Wife

his father's father were ministers in the Church of the Brethren.

He completed his high school training in 1940 at the

LaFayette high school, where he was elected to the Honor Society, receiving a medal for citizenship. He graduated from Bluffton College, Ohio, a Mennonite institution, in 1944, with honors. Then he enrolled in Bethany Biblical Seminary and graduated with the class of 1947 with the B.D. degree.

Licensed to preach in September 1940, he was ordained to the full ministry in 1941. He was ordained an elder by the Marion church, Northwestern Ohio, in 1951.

He served the New Stark federated church as student pastor while in Bluffton College. In the summers of 1945 and 1946 he served his home church, County Line, Northwestern Ohio, as pastor. In July 1947 he became pastor of the Marion church, that district, and continued until 1951. He came to this district in September 1951 as pastor of the Eaton church, in which responsibility he continues.

In his home district he was three times reading clerk, was once on the Resolutions Committee, and once a delegate on the Standing Committee. He was for several years a member of the Board of Christian Education in that district and for two years was secretary of the Joint Board of the district. He was elected reading clerk by the 1954 Southern Ohio district conference.

Wherever he has been he has been active in co-operative church work. He was secretary-treasurer of the Marion County Council of Churches and has been president of the Eaton Ministerial Association. He is on the nominating committee of the Ohio Council of Churches.

On September 8, 1946, he was married to Ruth Elizabeth Brandt, of near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Formerly of the Lutheran faith, she united with the Church of the Brethren in the First church, Chicago. They have three children, Barbara Louise, Sharon Elizabeth, and Renita Kay.

### PAUL W. HALLADAY

Paul W. Halladay is a native of Southern Ohio, born near North Star on August 27, 1901. His parents were J. R. and Maggie Baker Halladay.



Finishing his high school work at Greenville, Ohio, he entered Manchester College and graduated, A.B. degree, in 1924. He then attended the American Conservatory of Music, graduating with the Bachelor of Music degree in 1928 and the Master of Music degree in 1935.

He married Sara Heebner of Lansdale, Pennsylvania, on August 21, 1926. They have two children, Ruth Mary and Karleton.

Brother Halladay was elected to the ministry in 1920 by the Poplar Grove church. Now a professor of music in Manchester College, he has held many music institutes over the Brotherhood.

### CHESTER I. HARLEY

Chester I. Harley was born at Manassas, Virginia, on August 7, 1914, the son of Samuel C. and Mary F. Harley. After graduating from the Manassas high school he entered Bridgewater College, graduating in 1935. He received his license to preach in his home church in September 1933. In 1934 he served as summer pastor in the Mt. Carmel congregation of Eastern Virginia and in 1935 as summer pastor in the Bridgewater church.

In the fall of 1935 he entered Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia, at the same time serving the Hopewell congregation, First Virginia. He served the Richmond church, 1936-37. His B.D. degree was received from Bethany Biblical Seminary in 1939.

On August 7, 1938, he was united in marriage to Kathleen M. Barnhart of Pyrmont, Indiana. They have three children, Gerald, Joyce, and Sharon.

After graduating from Bethany Seminary he became the part-time district executive secretary in Eastern Virginia and part-time pastor of the Mt. Carmel congregation. In 1941 he became the half-time district executive secretary of the Eastern Maryland District and half-time pastor of the Flower Hill congregation. In 1944 he became pastor of the Bush Creek congregation also. In 1946 he was called to be the pastor of

the Cloverdale congregation, First Virginia, from which parish he came to the New Carlisle church in June 1953.

Brother Harley has been on Standing Committee and has held many evangelistic meetings.



Chester Harley and Wife



Kenneth Hartman and Wife

### KENNETH I. HARTMAN

Kenneth I. Hartman, a native of California, was born at Live Oak on January 6, 1919, to P. S. and Bessie Hartman.

He secured his education in the Live Oak schools, Ashland College, Ohio, and Bethany Biblical Seminary.

On June 4, 1943, he married Grace Keeny of Loganville, Pennsylvania. They have two children, Stephan and Dawn.

He was elected to the ministry by the Live Oak church, Northern California.

As a summer pastor he served the Shiloh church, West Virginia, and the Maple Grove church, Northeastern Ohio, for three years. He was pastor of the Lafayette church, Southern



Indiana, for the six years before coming to this district on September 1, 1954, as pastor of the Eversole church.

### WALTER E. HAWKE

Elder Walter Hawke was born near North Hampton, within the bounds of the Donnels Creek church, on October 3, 1892. The parents were Peter and Hannah Thomas Hawke. He attended the public schools at North Hampton and Olive Branch and took his A.B. degree at Wittenberg in 1916, the M.R.E. degree at Bethany Seminary in 1925, and then his M.A. at Wittenberg in 1933.



Walter Hawke and Wife

He married Margaret Lobaugh on May 20, 1917; they have one daughter living and one deceased.

Most of his active life has been spent in public-school work. He taught several years in Clark County, then was a principal in Ashtabula County. Returning, he was principal of the Oak Grove school in Clark County, and then superin-

tendent-principal of the Wayne Township schools of Montgomery County. They lived, this while, at New Carlisle and were active in the church at this place.

Brother Hawke had full-time charge of the church at Middletown three years. At various times he served part time at Hamilton, West Charleston, Donnels Creek, and the churches of the district in Adams County. He was the elder at Rock House, Kentucky, for a while and is now the elder of both the New Carlisle and the Donnels Creek church.

Resigning his school principalship in 1953, he has since been engaged in the insurance business.

#### LESTER HEISEY

Lester Heisey was born in Montgomery County, Ohio, September 17, 1881, to Albert and Susan Kreider Heisey. He united with the Potsdam church in January 1898. He was married to Emma Miller.

Having followed farming until called to the ministry in 1908 by the West Milton church, soon afterward he became pastor of the Charleston church, Ross County, Ohio, and continued nearly five years. He also served as a pastor for a short while in Northeastern Ohio. Returning to Southern Ohio he was the pastor at Pleasant Valley for a year.

His was mostly a free ministry, however. Living at Potsdam, he followed the carpenter's trade. The Potsdam church ordained him an elder in 1942. He was one of the early workers in the Kentucky field and was mainly responsible for the establishment of the churches at Rock House and Wolfe Creek. The post office at Heisey, Kentucky, took his name. He passed away in 1950.

#### HARLEY H. HELMAN

Harley H. Helman was born January 19, 1887, in Shelby County, Ohio, to John A. and Allie Cromer Helman.

After attending the elementary schools in that county



he enrolled in Manchester College, Indiana, completing high school work in the academy. Attending the college he graduated with the A.B. degree in 1915. He completed the residence work for the A.M. degree in Northwestern University, Illinois, in 1927.

On February 4, 1906, he was married to Cora A. Danford, whose father was Edward A. Danford, minister in the Loramie congregation. They had four children: Emerson, Gerald (deceased), Mary Alice Gump, and Lowell.



H. H. Helman and Wife

Entering the teaching profession in 1905 he taught in the elementary schools and then became an administrator. He was superintendent of the Darby rural schools, Union County, for three years and of the Richwood schools, Ohio, for one year. During this year he was also director of the Richwood Normal School.

Elected to the ministry in 1915 by the Manchester church, Indiana, he was ordained an elder by the South Bend congregation in 1920.

Brother Helman began his active ministry in the Bellefontaine church, Northwestern Ohio, where he was the summer pastor in 1917. In 1919 he was called as pastor of the First church, South Bend, Indiana, where he served five years. He led this congregation in the erection of a new church dedicated in 1922. In 1924 he became pastor of the Elgin church, Illinois. In the fall of 1928 he entered the field of religious education, first as the minister of education in the local church, then as executive secretary of the Council of Religious Education for the State of Illinois, and later as research editor for the D. C. Cook Publishing Company. During this period he contributed over one thousand articles to various publishers of Sunday-school literature.

In 1934 he returned to his home district to become pastor of the New Carlisle church. He continued his work here ten years; then he moved to their rural home near this village. In 1951 he began his service in the Middle District church and is both pastor and elder at this time.

While in Northern Indiana Brother Helman was chairman of the Board of Religious Education, and in Northern Illinois and Wisconsin he was secretary of the same board of that district. In 1924 he was a member of the Young People's Commission, for the Brotherhood, responsible for initiating a national youth program. In this district he has served on the Ministerial Board, as district secretary, on Standing Committee, as editor of the *Southern Ohio Herald*, and at present as a member of the District Board. He was chairman of the committee which formulated the plan of organization for the district in 1952. He was the first secretary of the National Pastoral Association of the Church of the Brethren. As editor, he has contributed largely to the publication of this history.

### HAROLD E. HELSTERN

Harold E. Helstern, son of George and Bessie Helstern, was born at Dayton, Ohio, July 24, 1899.

He graduated from the Trotwood high school and is employed in Dayton.



His marriage to Christina Long took place on May 21, 1919. They have three children, Charlotte, Rollie, and James.

The Fort McKinley church elected him to the ministry in August 1936. He was ordained an elder in 1939.

Brother Helstern has served the West Milton and Harris Creek churches as pastor, having now been with the latter for some years.



Harold Helstern and Wife



Russell Helstern and Wife

### RUSSELL F. HELSTERN

Russell F. Helstern was born November 28, 1903, in Montgomery County, Ohio, the son of George and Bessie Helstern.

After completing his high school work at the Madison Township high school he attended Manchester College, graduating from that institution with the A.B. degree in 1931. He received the A.M. degree from Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio, in 1939.



On April 16, 1927, he was married to Vinnie Bowers, the daughter of Elder and Mrs. Harvey Bowers, of Wakarusa, Indiana. They are the parents of four daughters.

He was elected to the ministry on July 11, 1934, by the Fort McKinley church.

In the local church he has been a Sunday-school teacher and a member of the board of Christian education. He has done a great deal of supply preaching in near-by churches.

As director of Camp Sugar Grove almost from its beginning Brother Helstern has rendered outstanding service to the district in its camping program. He is at present the director of camp promotion for Sugar Grove. He has also shared in the district work as the director of intermediate work.

Brother Helstern is a high school instructor in the city schools of Dayton.

### CLARENCE GEORGE HESSE

Clarence George Hesse is a native of Grant County, West Virginia, the son of Charles and Catherine Hesse. He first became a member of the Church of the Brethren in the Greenland congregation, West Virginia, in January 1906. This same church called him to the ministry in 1909. The Somerset church, Western Pennsylvania, ordained him to the eldership in 1922.

He graduated with the A.B. degree from Bridgewater College, Virginia, in 1917 and with the B.D. from Crozer Theological Seminary in 1920.

On August 11, 1920, he was married to Myrtle L. Idleman.

The Hesses shepherded the Greenville church from 1946 to 1952. Other pastorates have been: Somerset, Pennsylvania; Roanoke, Virginia; and Bridgewater, Virginia. They are now working in the Hartville church in Northeastern Ohio.

Brother Hesse has served twice as moderator of district conference in the Second District of Virginia and four times on Standing Committee.



## DORSEY HODGDEN

Dorsey Hodgden was born in the town of Essex, Union County, Ohio, November 26, 1855, the son of Elder Sidney and Catherine Davy Hodgden.

He went with his parents, as a boy, to Missouri, and later to Kansas. In the former state he united with the church in 1873 and that same year was called to the ministry at the age of eighteen. In 1875 he moved to Indiana, within the Roann congregation.

On February 7, 1878, he married Martha Ann Neff. They were the parents of five children, one of whom is Mrs. Norman Wine of Dayton, Ohio.

After their marriage they moved to the Clear Creek church, Middle Indiana, where he served for thirty-five years as pastor and elder. His ordination as an elder took place in the Clear Creek church in 1882.

The Hodgdens moved to Dayton, Ohio, in 1912, where he became active in the West Dayton congregation.

While in Middle Indiana Brother Hodgden represented the district on the Standing Committee and assisted in the establishment of the church at Huntington.

His wife was deceased on February 18, 1934, and on August 30, 1939, Brother Hodgden passed away.

## W. H. HOLLER

W. H. Holler, son of Perry E. and Susan M. Holler, was born June 12, 1878, in Madison Township, Montgomery County, Ohio.

He attended the public schools here and has resided in this community practically all his life.

His wife was Laura Mae Mummaw, to whom he was married on February 20, 1902. They have two sons and two daughters.

Brother Holler was made a deacon in 1911, elected to the ministry in 1912, and ordained as an elder in 1921. He assisted in the free ministry at Fort McKinley, his home congregation, and was elder here from 1922 to 1925.

## DAVID HOLLINGER

David Hollinger was born to Samuel and Mary Kunkel Hollinger on April 13, 1855, near Greenville, Ohio.

His wife was Catherine Risser; they were married in 1876.

He was elected to the ministry in 1882 by the Palestine church and was ordained by the Manchester church, Middle Indiana. He was for a time a trustee of Manchester College.

The first pastor of the Greenville church, being asked by the Mission Board to take over the new work here in 1900, he served here until 1917, when he moved to Redcliffe, Alberta.

Sister Hollinger was elected to the ministry here and shared in the work of the church along with her husband. After they returned to Greenville in 1927 she became the first district secretary of the Ladies' Aid Society.

During 1910 the Hollingers made a tour of Europe and the Bible lands, after which they visited many churches relating their experiences. He held evangelistic meetings besides and was on Standing Committee several times.

He passed away at Greenville, Ohio, in 1937. Sister Hollinger lived here until she followed him in death in 1953. He had lived to be eighty-two and she ninety-two years old.

## E. SYLVESTER HOLLINGER

E. Sylvester Hollinger was born near Hollansburg, Ohio, on September 6, 1887, the child of Daniel and Elizabeth Bolinger Hollinger of the Beech Grove congregation. He became a member of the church in November 1901.

On March 23, 1910, he was married to Elizabeth Wandle, daughter of Emanuel G. and Elizabeth Wandle.

He was made a deacon in 1910 and a minister in 1911 by the Beech Grove church, being installed into the full ministry in 1913 by the Prices Creek church and ordained an elder by the same church in 1926.

He obtained his elementary education in the country schools and attended one term at Manchester College and one term at the Bethany Bible Training School.



For twenty-five years he worked in the Beech Grove church in the free ministry and as part-time pastor, and for seven years in the Cedar Grove church, mostly in the free



E. S. Hollinger and Wife

ministry. In 1944 he became the full-time pastor of the Beaverton church, Michigan, remaining here nearly five years. While at Beaverton he was on the Board of Christian Education of the district and was the director of peace and temperance. He was also elder of the Midland church. In September 1948 he became pastor of the Pleasant Valley church, where he serves at present.

Two children were born to the couple: Kenneth, a pastor in Northeastern Ohio, and Neva, a teacher in the Troy, Ohio, schools. His companion and their mother passed away in 1934.

On May 22, 1937, Brother Hollinger was married to Vicie Cassel, daughter of Philip and Rebecca Miller Cassel, of near Bradford. She had been a public-school teacher in Miami County for twenty-three years. She graciously assumed the full responsibilities of a pastor's wife, and they are rendering a real service at Pleasant Valley.

## KENNETH HOLLINGER

Kenneth Wandle Hollinger, son of E. S. and Sarah Wandle Hollinger, was born in Darke County, Ohio, on August 11, 1912.

His high school training was taken at Hollansburg. He graduated with the B.S. degree from Manchester College in 1935, and later took the B.D. degree from Bethany Biblical Seminary. Graduate work was taken at the University of Illinois.

He married Helen Louise Darley, also a graduate of Manchester College, in January 1938. They have four sons: John David, Richard Eugene, James Elvin, and Roger William.

Brother Hollinger was elected a minister in 1932 and an elder in 1942. He had served pastorates in Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois before coming to this district to serve the Beech Grove church, 1938-1943. While here he served on the Men's Work Cabinet and assisted in founding the work in Kentucky. He is now the pastor of the Olivet church, in the District of Northeastern Ohio.

## WILLIAM M. HOLLINGER

William M. Hollinger was born September 27, 1890, at Lamar, Colorado, to Emanuel W. and Jennie Hollinger.

He graduated from the New Madison high school, Darke County, Ohio, in 1908 and from Manchester College in 1927, A.B. degree.

Entering the teaching profession he taught first in Darke County, then in Dixie high school, and now for twenty years has taught English in the Dayton high schools.

His marriage to Mollie M. Wandle took place at Arcanum, Ohio, on August 21, 1912. They have five sons and one daughter.

He was elected to the ministry in 1921 by the Salem congregation and was ordained an elder by the Eversole church in 1925.



His service in the ministry and as an elder has been rendered in three Southern Ohio congregations, Eversole, Trotwood, and East Dayton. In the local church he has served on several committees and boards and as a Sunday-school teacher.



William Hollinger and Wife



Roy Honeyman and Wife

### ROY HONEYMAN

Roy Francis Honeyman, son of Hanford and Josephine LeBlond Honeyman, was born May 4, 1889, in Franklin Township, Darke County, Ohio. He received his education in the township grade and high school and began teaching at the age of nineteen, taught for six years, and then turned to farming.

On November 26, 1914, he was married to Opal Beachler at her home near the Painter Creek church. Three sons, Kenneth, Carroll, and Richard, were born to them; Carroll died in June 1929.



Uniting with the church in 1911, he became active in the Sunday school, first as a teacher and then as superintendent. In June 1921 he was called to the ministry by the Painter Creek church. Here he served for twenty years, eight as associate minister at both Painter Creek and Red River and then twelve years as pastor. After being ordained into the eldership in May 1926 he served several churches of the district as elder.

In September 1941 Brother Honeyman became the pastor of the Piqua church; he ministered to this congregation for six years, until his passing on August 25, 1947. For five years he was the director of peace education for the District Board of Christian Education and for seven years was a member of the trustee board of the Brethren Home, being its chairman at the time of his death.

### KEITH HOOVER

Keith Hoover, the only son of Ora L. and Marie Kindell Hoover, was born to them in Iowa City, Iowa, on July 31, 1925.

He grew up at Sugar Grove, near the present site of Camp Sugar Grove, and attended the public schools of Miami County. He entered Manchester College, graduating in 1947, and following graduation studied a semester each in the Universities of Hamburg, Germany, and Zurich, Switzerland. He was granted the M.A. degree in 1950 by Northwestern University. He took his B.D. at Bethany Biblical Seminary in 1953. At present he is pursuing graduate study in psychology at Northwestern University and also teaching psychology, counseling, and speech at Wright Junior College, Chicago.

The Pleasant Hill church installed him into the ministry in 1947. Previously he had been on the District Youth Cabinet and on the Brethren Student Christian Movement as well as on the Brotherhood Youth Cabinet.

On August 10, 1952, he was married to Waltrand Gerda Wolff, daughter of an East Prussian landowner, near Angeburt, Germany.



## J. EARL HOSTETTER

J. Earl Hostetter comes from Pennsylvania; he was born May 20, 1917, in Lancaster, to J. Clarence and Leah Etter Hostetter.

He completed his high school training at Cornwall, Pennsylvania, and attended Herzel College, Chicago, one winter and Manchester College one year. Then he was in the Bethany Bible Training School for three years.

His marriage to Pearl Jean Staley occurred on June 13, 1939, at Anderson, Indiana. They have four children: Judith, Larry, Gloria, and Sylvia.

Elected to the ministry August 4, 1943, by the East Petersburg church, Eastern Pennsylvania, he was advanced



Earl Hostetter and Wife

to the eldership by the Eel River church, Middle Indiana, in December 1950.

In 1953 he came from the Eel River church to the Oakland church, of which he is now the pastor.

## OBED HOVATTER

The parents of Elder Obed Hovatter were Henry B. and Virginia Hovatter, members of the Shiloh church, Tucker County, West Virginia. Three years after his birth the family



Obed Hovatter and Wife

removed to Preble County, Ohio, within the Prices Creek territory.

Brother Hovatter was baptized in 1912 by Elder Joseph Longanecker. In 1913 he went with the family to Greenville. The church here called him to the ministry in August 1921. After a brief period at Manchester College he moved to Hamilton, Ohio, and assisted in services at the local church.

On May 30, 1926, he married Velma Buechly, at Covington, Ohio. After spending some time in the Fort McKinley and East Dayton churches the couple located at Troy, Ohio. The Troy church ordained him in 1942. Since 1947 they have resided near New Carlisle and have been active in the church there.



## ARTHUR HUNN

Arthur Hunn was born April 22, 1932, at North Manchester, Indiana, to George A. and Dorothy M. Hunn.

He completed his high school training in the Jefferson Township high school, Montgomery County, Ohio, and enrolled in Manchester College, Indiana, graduating, A.B. degree, in 1954. Then he enrolled in Bethany Biblical Seminary, Chicago, where he is at this time.

He married Phyllis J. Heeter, of Elkhart, Indiana, on December 19, 1953.

The Bear Creek congregation licensed him to the ministry in 1952.

## DAVID HUNN

David Hunn, of the Trotwood church, was born at Trotwood on December 30, 1933, to George A. and Dorothy M. Hunn.

His education was received at the Trotwood high school and Manchester College, where he is enrolled with the class of 1955.

He was elected to the ministry by the Bear Creek church in December 1952. He has been a member of the local, district, regional, and national youth cabinets.

## GEORGE A. HUNN

George A. Hunn, son of Adolph and Blanche Sortman Hunn, was born near Dayton, Ohio, on November 25, 1906.

He finished his high school training at Trotwood and later spent two years at Manchester College, Indiana.

The Trotwood congregation licensed him to preach in 1931 and installed him into the full ministry in 1933. The Bear Creek congregation ordained him an elder in May of 1940.

He was married to Dorothy Metzger on June 23, 1928.

They have two sons and two daughters. The two sons are both ministers, Arthur a student in Bethany Biblical Seminary, Chicago, and David a student in Manchester College.

After teaching four years he became a plumber and a plumbing contractor.

On January 1, 1953, he located in Wisconsin as pastor of the Chippewa Valley parish, near Mondovi.

### PERRY L. HUFFAKER

Perry L. Huffaker was born to Harrison L. and Alice L. Huffaker on March 28, 1902, at Decatur, Illinois. He was baptized into the Church of the Brethren at Cerro Gordo, Illinois, in 1912.



Perry Huffaker and Wife

He completed his high school training at John Marshall College, Chicago, in 1919; his college work, A.B. degree, at Manchester College in 1923; and the work for the B.Mus.



degree at Northwestern University in 1933. He also spent two years at Bethany Biblical Seminary.

Brother Huffaker taught school in Indiana for thirteen years, the last eight of which were in the high school in South Bend. He was afterward director of religious education and music in the Hagerstown church, Maryland. He spent eight years as pastor of the Pine Glen and Spring Run churches at McVeytown, Pennsylvania. In 1949 he became pastor of the West Milton church, this district, and continues there at this time.

In the field of music he has held many responsibilities: music director at state conferences in Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, at preaching missions, and at Annual Conference some eighteen times. He has conducted schools of music in many places throughout the Brotherhood, and in several youth camps. He has been on the Music and Worship Committee of the Church of the Brethren since 1929, and was a member of the committee commissioned to compile the new *Brethren Hymnal*. Since coming to Ohio he has annually directed the Southern Ohio Choral Society in preparing and rendering the *Messiah*.

Wherever he has lived he has been active in inter-denominational church work and in the district. He was a member of the Board of Christian Education in Northern Indiana, in Middle Maryland, and in Middle Pennsylvania. He was the district youth adviser in the latter district. At present he is a member of the District Board of Southern Ohio.

On August 12, 1923, Brother Huffaker married Lauree L. Whitehead, of Warsaw, Indiana. She has been active in district and national Women's Work, directing homebuilders conferences at Bridgewater, Virginia, and Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, and as homebuilder director for the districts of Middle Pennsylvania and Southern Ohio. She has also been a camp leader and a member of the Women's Work Cabinet of this district.

They have three sons: Keith Lee, David Lowell, and John Lawrence.

## THOMAS E. HUNTER

Thomas E. Hunter was born in Madera, Pennsylvania, on September 14, 1890, to Robert C. and Elsie Stugart Hunter.

He was licensed to preach in 1944 by the Springfield church after being a deacon for over thirty years. He served the Charleston church, this district, for several months and has held meetings in Pennsylvania. He has supplied at Springfield and Donnels Creek.

On March 8, 1911, he was married to Mildred M. Findley of Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

He has been employed in a factory in Springfield, from which he will retire soon hoping to give more of his time then to the ministry.

## JOHN C. HURST

John C. Hurst was born in Birmingham, Alabama, to Calvin D. and Louie A. Hurst, on June 14, 1914.

He attended high school at Shoopman, Kentucky. He



John C. Hurst and Wife



married Marjorie Jean Kincaid on January 3, 1937. They have three children, Judith, Paul, and John.

The East Dayton church elected him to the ministry in 1945. He served the Gratis church for two years and then was called to pastor the Circleville congregation, where he still labors.

### JESSE CALVERT INMAN

Jesse Calvert Inman (1886—) was born near Bradford, Ohio, the son of Isaac L. and Ella Fry Inman. He did his high school work at Bradford, and later attended Mt. Union College, Ohio. Following this he taught school for one year at Beams-



J. C. Inman and Wife

ville, Ohio, and then entered Y.M.C.A. work, serving at Richmond, Indiana, and at Bradford and Hamilton, Ohio.

He married Sophia Schwartz of Piqua, Ohio, on May 17, 1911. They have four children.

Brother Inman was elected to the ministry by the Coving-

ton church in 1914, and was ordained an elder in 1920 by the Springfield church.

He served as pastor of the Springfield church, 1916-24; the Canton, Ohio, church, 1925-40; and the Ashland, Ohio, church, 1941-51. He became pastor of the Sidney church in October 1951 and continues there at the present.

While in Northeastern Ohio he was the moderator of district conference several times and at other times was assistant moderator and writing clerk. He was on the District Ministerial Board for sixteen years and was the chairman of the Joint Board for a number of years.

As pastor of the Sidney church, Brother Inman is directing the work there in a commendable way.

### SAMUEL S. KELLER

Samuel S. Keller comes from Defiance County, Ohio, the son of John and Lucretia Keller.



Samuel Keller and Wife



His education was received in the Hicksville, Ohio, public schools and in Defiance College.

On September 11, 1923, he was married to Alma Buirley at Deshler, Ohio. They have one child, John William.

Elected to the ministry by the Hicksville church, Northwestern Ohio, on November 9, 1942, he was advanced to the eldership in 1952.

He served the Hicksville and Sugar Creek churches in that district before coming to his present pastorate in the Piqua church in 1953.

### PAUL W. KINSEL

Paul W. Kinsel was born just west of Brookville, Ohio, to Daniel L. and Elizabeth Dafler Kinsel on March 15, 1910.



Paul Kinsel and Wife

At the age of two years, he moved with his parents to Brookville, where he grew up, uniting with the church at ten and finishing high school in 1928. Entering Manchester

College, North Manchester, Indiana, he graduated, A.B. degree, in 1932. He received his A.M. degree from Ohio State University in 1935.

Returning to his home town he taught in the high school for twelve years.

He was called to the ministry by the Brookville church on August 26, 1931. In 1932 he was installed into the ministry and on May 19, 1939, was ordained to the eldership.

On June 7, 1941, he was married to Naomi V. Erbaugh, daughter of C. G. and Mrs. Erbaugh of the Eversole church. They have three children, Barbara Ann, Susan Elizabeth, and John Daniel.

Brother Kinsel began his pastoral work as part-time pastor at West Charleston in 1936, remaining here for about two years. In 1941 he became part-time pastor of the West Alexandria church, continuing there for five years. In 1944 he resigned teaching and began seminary training. After one year at Bonebrake Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio, he entered Bethany Biblical Seminary, Chicago, graduating with the B.D. degree in 1946.

On September 1, 1946, he became pastor of the Frederick church, Eastern Maryland, continuing there until October 1950, when he became pastor of the Trotwood church, this district. Just now he is leading the congregation in the enlargement and modernization of the church building.

His services in this district have been many. Before going to Maryland he was on the Youth Cabinet for six years, three of these as president, and was a member of the Board of Christian Education for five years. He was also manager of Camp Sugar Grove for three years prior to his leaving the district. In 1946 he was moderator of district conference, and that same year was elected on the Standing Committee.

While in Eastern Maryland, he served as moderator of the district conference, as Standing Committeeman from the district, as chairman of the committee which developed a new plan for district organization, and also as chairman of the newly formed District Board.

Returning to Southern Ohio, he was again elected moderator of district conference and again elected on Standing



Committee. He was elected to the new District Board in 1953 and is at present its vice-chairman.

In the larger field of service he has been a member of the General Brotherhood Board, being assigned to the Brethren Service Commission. He served on the Heifer Project Committee of the Church of the Brethren and at present is the national vice-chairman of Heifer Project, Inc.

### MOYNE LANDIS

Moyne Landis, the son of Noah and Lydia Landis, residents of Kosciusko County, Indiana, was born on May 2, 1890.

He was educated in the public schools of Indiana, Manchester College, A.B. degree 1927, Bethany Seminary, and



Moyne Landis and Wife

Indiana University. In 1953 the seminary conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

Brother Landis was installed into the ministry by the

Plunge Creek Chapel congregation, in Wabash County, Indiana, in the year 1909. He was made an elder in 1919.

He married Kate Martin in 1911. There were five children, two of whom are deceased.

For twenty-five years Brother Landis was a teacher and public-school administrator in Indiana. For a longer period than that he was the pastor of the Spring Creek church in Middle Indiana—nineteen years as part-time and seven as full-time pastor.

In 1944 he came to Southern Ohio as pastor of the Oakland church. After nine years in this parish he accepted the invitation of the District Board to become the executive secretary of the district, taking up these duties in September of 1953.

In the two state districts in which he has lived he has served in a number of district offices: as a trustee of Manchester College, moderator of district conferences, member of district boards, and representative on Standing Committee.

The Landises occupy the district parsonage recently erected at West Milton. His duties as executive secretary of the District Board are heavy and exacting.

### OTIS I. LANDIS

Otis I. Landis became the son of Forest C. and Ola Kreider Landis on November 17, 1917, at Red River, within the territory of the Painter Creek and Red River churches. He graduated from the Newton Township schools, at Pleasant Hill, in 1935. Then followed one year in a business college, after which he was employed by a furniture company in Springfield, Ohio.

He married Myrth Karns of Covington in 1943. They have two daughters.

Brother Landis united with the Church of the Brethren at Pleasant Hill, being baptized by Elder John A. Robinson. The church licensed him to the ministry on November 3, 1940, and ordained him to the full ministry the following year.

After attending the Training School at Bethany Seminary



for two years, he enrolled at Manchester College, graduating in 1944, A.B. degree. Returning to Bethany he completed the seminary work, graduating in 1947.

While in college Brother Landis acted as part-time pastor at Portland, Indiana, and in the summer of 1945 as the pastor of the Turkey Creek, Kentucky, church. From 1947 to 1951 he was pastor of the Cleveland church, and was then called to become pastor of the Springfield, Ohio, church in September 1951. There he continues to work at this time. He is at present a member of the District Board.



Otis Landis



Philip Lauver and Wife

### PHILIP H. LAUVER

Philip H. Lauver was born August 3, 1906, near Paola, Kansas, the son of George M. and Sarah Hawk Lauver. George M. Lauver was at that time and until his death in 1912 a member of the faculty of Bethany Bible School, actively representing that institution in Bible institute work throughout the Brotherhood.



Brother Lauver was baptized in the Chicago Church of the Brethren on April 24, 1917. He was licensed to preach by the same congregation on December 1, 1929, and ordained to the office of elder in Tampa, Florida, on May 26, 1940.

He was educated in the public schools of Maywood, Illinois, at Elizabethtown and McPherson colleges, and at Bethany Biblical Seminary, where he received the B.D. degree in 1945.

On May 27, 1932, he was married to Mary Lou Williams, of Bartlesville, Oklahoma. They have two sons, Philip J. and David.

After his graduation from McPherson College in 1932 Brother Lauver continued in the free ministry in Florida during the ten years he spent as a teacher in the public schools. In 1942 he discontinued public-school work to attend Bethany Biblical Seminary. At his graduation from that institution he became the pastor of the Fort McKinley congregation, which he served until 1952, when he became pastor of the church at Greenville.

At the 1948 district conference he was elected secretary of the district conference, and continued in this capacity until 1953. During this period he was secretary of the District Board and of the Council of Boards, and was a member of the committee which drafted the plan for reorganization of the District of Southern Ohio. He also represented the district as a member of the Central Regional Council. He was a member of the Standing Committee in 1951. At present he is the secretary of the District Board.

### CARL B. LEHMAN

Carl B. Lehman was born July 23, 1898, on a farm in Cherokee County, Iowa, the son of Frank and Helena Sheeler Lehman. His mother was a native of Hesse Cassel, Germany, and came to America when she was fifteen years old.

His early life was spent in this same county, where he completed his high school work. Afterward he spent one winter in Mount Morris College, Illinois, and later attended Bethany Biblical Seminary.



He united with the Church of the Brethren at Mount Morris and in 1923 was licensed to preach by the Kingsley church, of the Northern Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota



Carl Lehman and Wife

District. The Troy church, Southern Ohio, installed him into the ministry in 1931 and ordained him an elder in 1942.

Brother Lehman was the interim pastor at Pleasant Hill in the spring of 1928 and the part-time pastor at Troy during 1929-30.

While in Bethany Seminary he met the lady he later married, Mary Grisso. Their marriage took place in Troy on July 11, 1926. They lived in Iowa for a short time but later came to Troy. They have three children, Clyde Beryl, Dorothy Marie, and Joyce Elaine, the latter an adopted child.

### CHARLES EUGENE LENKER

Charles Eugene Lenker, son of G. C. and Ruth DeWeese Lenker, was born February 24, 1923, at Greenville, Ohio.

He graduated from the Jackson Township high school. He was in civilian public service during World War II. He and two brothers were on a cattle boat to Greece in 1946.

Entering Manchester College he graduated, A.B. degree, in 1949; then he enrolled in Bethany Biblical Seminary, graduating in 1952 with the B.D. degree. He held summer pastorates in Southern Virginia and in the fall after graduation returned to that district to become the full-time pastor of the Snow Creek congregation, where he now serves.

He married Hannah May Withers of Newberg, Oregon. They have three children.

Licensed by the Pleasant Valley church, Southern Ohio, he was later ordained to the full ministry by the same church.

#### ROBERT KENNETH LENKER

Robert Kenneth Lenker was born in Darke County, Ohio, on October 24, 1929, the son of G. C. and Ruth DeWeese Lenker.

He graduated from the Jackson Township high school, spent a year in Bethany Biblical Seminary, and then entered Manchester College, purposing to complete his seminary work after graduation here.

On December 30, 1951, he was licensed to preach by the Pleasant Valley church, this district. He does summer pastoral work during school vacations. He made a trip to Greece on a cattle boat when sixteen years old. Two older brothers were also on this boat.

He married Joan Louise Stickleman of Rossburg, Ohio, on January 7, 1950. They have two children, Mona Kay and Jonathan Dean.

#### JOHN D. LONG

John D. Long was born at Meyersdale, Pennsylvania, to Daniel W. and Susie Elizabeth Long on August 14, 1914. His father is a minister.

He graduated from the Meyersdale high school in 1932;



from Juniata College, Pennsylvania, A.B. degree, in 1936; from Bethany Biblical Seminary in 1941 with the B.D. degree; and with the S.T.M. degree from the Yale Divinity School in 1945.

In July 1932 the Meyersdale church, Western Pennsylvania, licensed him to preach. He was ordained an elder by this church in December 1941.



John D. Long and Wife

On March 6, 1943, he was married to Inez Goughnour, of Des Moines, Iowa, who had been the editor of youth publications at the Brethren Publishing House, Elgin, Illinois. She was graduated from Manchester College in 1939. They have two children, David Warren and Mary Kathryn.

From June 1936 to August 1938 he served the Salisbury, Maple Glen, Beachdale, and Garrett circuit of churches in Western Pennsylvania. While in Bethany Seminary he was the student pastor, 1938-40, of the Liberty Mills church, in Middle Indiana. Following his graduation from the seminary he became pastor of the University Park church in the suburbs of Washington, D. C., in the Eastern Maryland Dis-

trict, remaining here until August 1944. In September of 1945 he came to the District of Southern Ohio as pastor of the West Dayton (now Mack Memorial) church, where he led the congregation in the erection of a splendid new building, dedicated October 12, 1952. A new parsonage was also purchased during this time.

He was on the board of directors of the Church Federation of Greater Dayton, was once moderator of our district conference, was twice the representative of this district on Standing Committee; and was for a five-year term a member of the General Brotherhood Board. Sister Long was for a time a contributing editor of the *Gospel Messenger*.

The Longs moved to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in January 1955, to become the pastors of the church there.

### KENNETH GUY LONG

Kenneth Guy Long is a native of Ohio, having been born to Elder Ira E. and Della Landis Long near Mansfield on May 26, 1913.

He completed his high school work at Akron, Ohio, and entered Manchester College in 1931, graduating in 1935 with the A.B. degree. He completed his seminary training at Bethany Biblical Seminary, receiving the B.D. degree in 1939.

In 1924 he became a member of the White church of Southern Indiana. The First church, Akron, Ohio, licensed him in 1933 and installed him into the ministry on December 30, 1934.

His first pastorate was in the Silver Creek church, Northwestern Ohio, where he began in 1935, this being the same congregation in which his father began his ministry. In 1939 he became pastor at Grand Rapids, Michigan. In 1941, he moved to Northern Indiana to pastor the Cedar Lake and Pleasant Chapel churches, 1941-43; Cedar Lake only, 1943-45; and the Walnut church from 1945 to 1949. The Pleasant Chapel congregation ordained him an elder in 1942. While in the District of Northern Indiana he was a member of the Board



of Christian Education. He and his wife head up the Committee on Family Life for Southern Ohio.

Brother Long came to Southern Ohio in 1949 as pastor of the Union City church, where his work is continuing. In this district he has served on the Board of Christian Educa-



Kenneth Long and Wife

tion, on the committee to reorganize the district, and then on the newly formed District Board. He has also been the elder of the Pleasant Valley church.

On August 17, 1940, he married Grace Elizabeth Gans, of Yakima, Washington. She also came from an elder's home. She completed her high school work at Yakima and graduated from La Verne College, California, with the A.B. degree in 1934. She taught in the public schools of California and took special training in Bethany Biblical Seminary. While they were in pastoral work in Northern Indiana she served on the Women's Work Cabinet.

They have four children: Alice Lucile, Ann Elizabeth, Joe Kenneth, and John Richard.



## D. LEONARD LUTZ

D. Leonard Lutz was born April 28, 1908, at Pitsburg, Ohio, to Alpha and Susie Lutz.

He graduated from the Bethel Township high school, Miami County, in 1926. Recently he has spent two terms at Manchester College.

On December 3, 1938, he was married to Mary Oakes of West Milton, Ohio. They are the parents of two boys, David and Dennis.

The West Milton church called him to the ministry on March 2, 1943. The Barnum, Minnesota, church, of which he was the pastor at that time, ordained him an elder in August 1948.

He was a Sunday-school teacher in both the West Milton and the Beaver Creek church.



Leonard Lutz and Wife

After shepherding the Barnum church for seven and one-half years, he returned to his home district in the fall of 1954 to serve the Gratis church.



## OMER B. MAPHIS

Omer B. Maphis, the son of Franklin B. and Elizabeth Dafler Maphis, was born May 16, 1894, at Clayton, Ohio.



Omer Maphis and Wife

Completing his high school training at Brookville in 1912, he entered Manchester College, Indiana, that fall. He enrolled at Ohio State University, Columbus, in 1914, and later that year at Blue Ridge College, Maryland, graduating the next year with the A.B. degree. Advanced training was taken at the University of Illinois, Northwestern University, and Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York. In 1923 he took his B.D. degree from Bethany Biblical Seminary.

His marriage to Elsie Bauermaster took place in Chicago, Illinois, on June 5, 1918. They have three children, L. Kathleen, Dorothy Jane, and John E.

Elected to the ministry by the Brookville church in 1914, he was ordained an elder by the Chicago church in 1923. He was the pastor of the Springfield mission church, this district, from 1915 to 1916. Besides his activities in the local churches

in which he has resided he has also been the elder of the Beaver Creek church since 1952.

He served as librarian and bookstore manager for Bethany Biblical Seminary, Chicago, from 1917 to 1925. A part of this time he was also assistant professor of religious education. He was administrator of Bethany Hospital, Chicago, from 1923 to 1940. The following two years he was the sales director of the Brethren Publishing House, Elgin, Illinois. He then spent a year as a director of civilian public service camps. Following that year he was with the Hospital Supply Corporation, Chicago, then was the assistant administrator of the Norwegian American Hospital, Chicago, for a few months, and the administrator of the Deaconess Hospital, Freeport, Illinois, from 1944 to 1946. In January 1946 he became the administrator of the Kenosha Hospital, Wisconsin. In August of 1950 he returned to this district as the administrator of the Greene Memorial Hospital, Xenia, Ohio, in which capacity he continues. He holds membership in the American Hospital Association.

Brother Maphis has been a Sunday-school superintendent, teacher, trustee, and member of various boards and committees in the local church. While he resided in Oak Park, Illinois, he was a member of the board of education. The Maphises reside at Xenia.

### JOHN C. MARTIN

John C. Martin was born February 13, 1914, in Darke County, Ohio, to Harvey and Sarah Jackson Martin.

He became a member of the Oakland church in 1923, was elected a deacon by the East Dayton church in 1950, and was licensed to the ministry by the Eversole church in 1951. This latter church ordained him a minister in 1952. The Romine church, Southern Illinois, made him an elder in September 1953.

Brother Martin has been pastor of the Romine church since 1952. He has charge, as elder, of the Kaskaskia church.



## URIAH R. McCORKLE

Uriah R. McCorkle was born April 7, 1876, at Palmyra, Pennsylvania, the son of William and Emma Heisey McCorkle.

He came with his parents to Ohio in 1880. In 1901 he moved to Berthold, North Dakota, and in 1903 located in Shelby County, Ohio, near the Loramie church.

On August 3, 1903, he was married to Rose Longanecker, daughter of Elder H. C. Longanecker. There were three children, one son and two daughters.

For ten years he taught school in North Dakota and Ohio.

He was elected to the ministry by the Loramie congregation and in 1918 he was ordained an elder.

Besides teaching he has also engaged in farming and has served for many years in the free ministry. He now lives on his farm within the bounds of the Poplar Grove church.

## W. GLENN MCFADDEN

W. Glenn McFadden was born April 4, 1904, in Wayne County, Ohio, to Albert H. and Ida Mae Roger McFadden.

He received his high school training at Smithville, Ohio, and graduated from Manchester College in 1928. In 1944 he received the B.D. degree from Bethany Biblical Seminary. Further graduate work was taken at Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Illinois, the Divinity School of the University of Chicago, and Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana.

On July 12, 1928, he was married to Eva Nancy Burkholder, of Smithville, Ohio. They have three sons, Robert, Wilbur, and Ralph.

Brother McFadden was elected to the ministry in October 1925 by the Paradise church, Northeastern Ohio, and was ordained an elder by the Mansfield church, same district, in November 1936.

In the fall of 1929 he became part-time pastor of the Mansfield church while teaching school at Dalton, Ohio, and then in 1933 became a teacher in the Mansfield high school, continuing also as pastor of the church there. While in the

seminary he served the Michigan City, Indiana, church, from 1939 to 1942.

In 1942 he came to this district as pastor at Troy. In 1950 he became pastor of the Elgin, Illinois, church.

While in Southern Ohio Brother McFadden was on the Board of Christian Education, once was moderator of district conference, and twice was our Standing Committeeman.

In Northeastern Ohio he was a member of the Board of Christian Education and a trustee of Camp Zion. In Northern Indiana he was the secretary of the Elders' Body.

A director of Bethany Biblical Seminary, Chicago, for some years, he is at present the chairman of the board of directors. For three years he has been the chairman of the regional home and family life committee.

#### WILLIAM EARL MCFARLAND

William E. McFarland was born near Union City, Indiana, on January 3, 1883, to Artemus and Rebecca McFarland.



Earl McFarland and Wife



On March 4, 1905, he was married to Pearletta Onkst. They have three sons and two daughters.

Brother McFarland was elected a deacon in 1912 and a minister in 1915 by the Union City congregation, where he served for many years in the free ministry. In the local church he has also been the superintendent of the Sunday school.

A farmer for many years, in 1951 he moved to Dayton, within the bounds of the East Dayton church, and works with his son, James A., who is a building contractor.

### C. F. McKEE

Charles F. McKee, the son of Samuel and Barbara Forney McKee, was born near Hagerstown, Maryland, on December 3, 1870.

His early education was received in the public schools of Washington County, Maryland. He attended Juniata College and then began teaching, later graduating from Ursinus College, Pennsylvania.

He married Iva Kaylor, daughter of Thomas and Hannah Kaylor, on March 12, 1897. They had one son, Robert, now an instructor in New York University, and one daughter, Dorothy, a teacher in the Dayton schools.

Brother McKee engaged in business following his teaching career, but later turned to the ministry. He was elected a minister by the Green Tree church, Pennsylvania, in 1907 and ordained an elder about 1917.

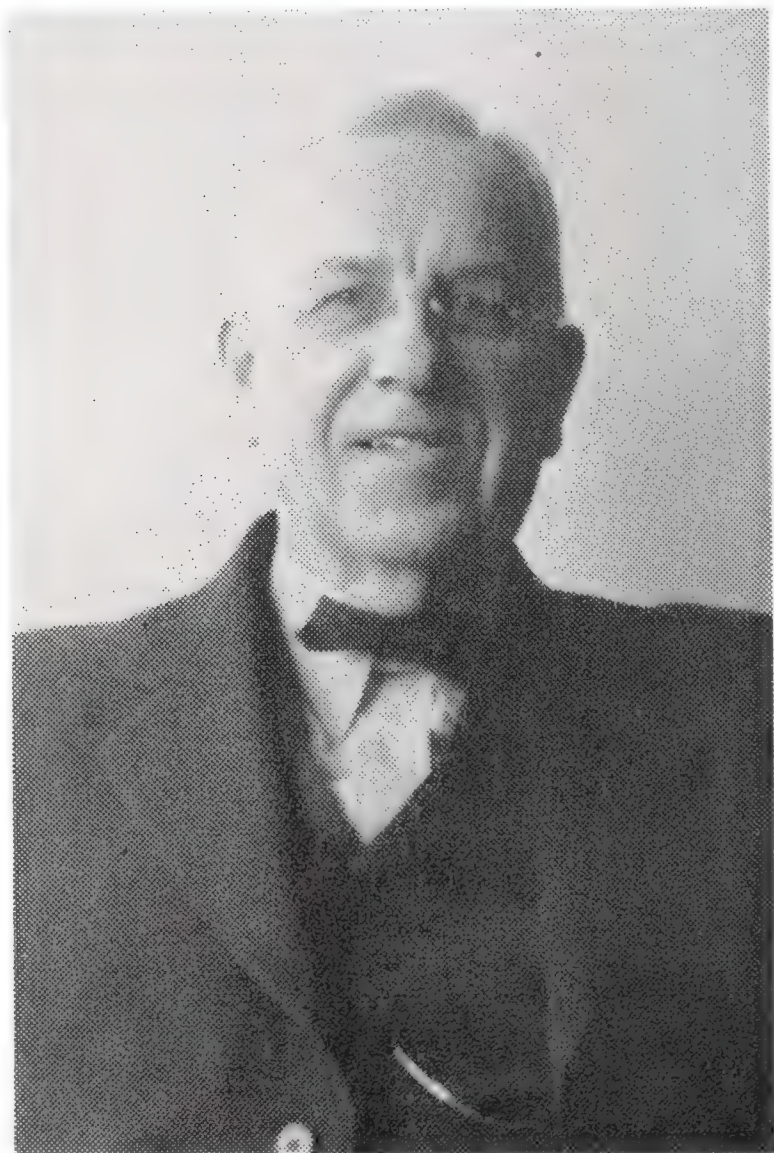
Before his election to the ministry he had supplied the pulpit at times in the Germantown and Royersford churches, Pennsylvania. He became pastor of the Green Tree congregation in 1907 and served there fourteen years. In June 1921 he came to this district as the leader of the Covington church, remaining eight years, after which he became the pastor of the Fort McKinley church in August 1929. He ministered to this congregation sixteen years.

Besides leading these two churches he served the district on the Comity Committee and on the Ministerial Board. He was the elder of several churches in the district, and was for

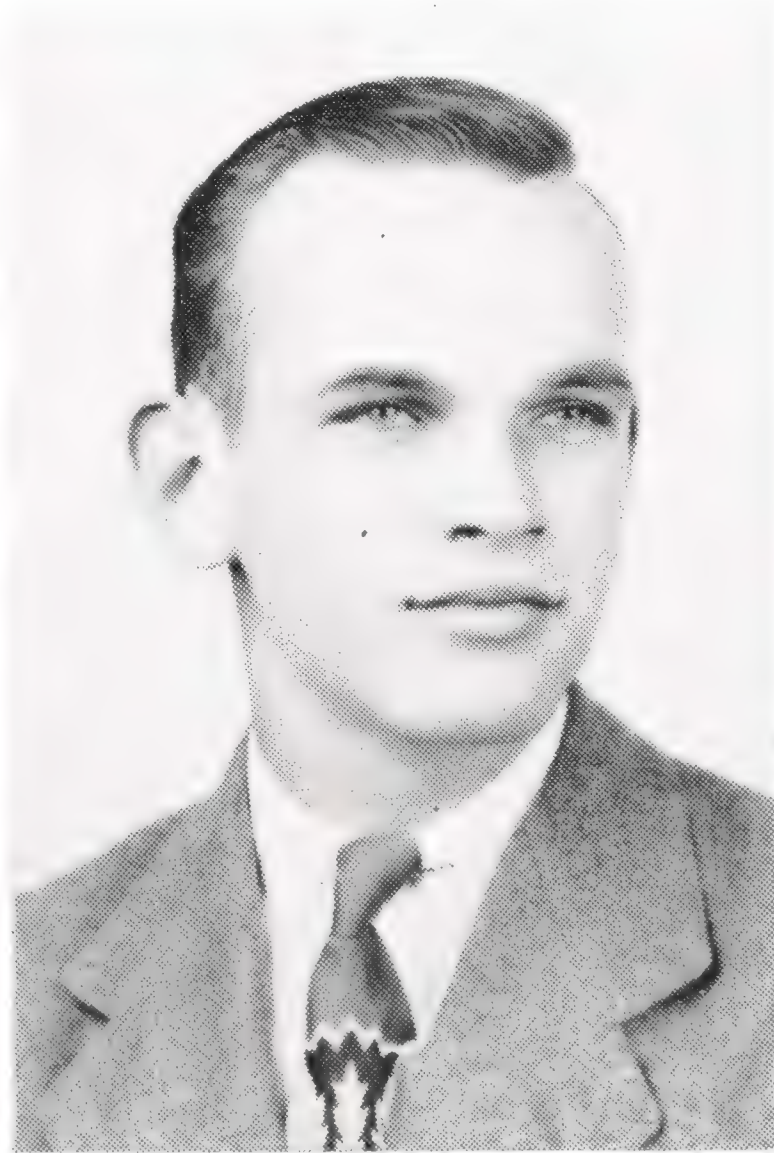


a term the president of the Dayton Ministerial Association. He had previously represented another district on Standing Committee.

Brother McKee was deceased on September 5, 1945. His companion preceded him in 1922.



C. F. McKee



Donald Mikula

### DONALD MIKULA

Donald Mikula was born November 2, 1932, at Columbus, Indiana, to Michael Max and Donna Meredith Mikula.

Finishing his public school training in the Bethel Township, Miami County, high school he entered Manchester College, remaining one year; afterward he attended night school at the University of Dayton. Then he entered Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio, where he is a senior.

On May 20, 1952, he was married to Carolyn Ann Woodzell. They have a son, Stephen Mark.

The West Charleston church elected him to the ministry



on July 12, 1953. While in college he is serving as pastor of the Bethel community church (Evangelical United Brethren) at Phoneton, Ohio.

### BYRON L. MILLER

Byron L. Miller was born on a farm two miles southwest of Sidney, Indiana, or seven miles north of Manchester College, North Manchester, Indiana, on February 16, 1914. He



Byron Miller and Wife

spent all twelve years in the Sidney public schools. As a boy, he attended the Plunge Creek Chapel church. It burned in April 1927 and was not rebuilt. His parents then attended the Eel River church. As a young man he helped his grandparents on the farm a great deal, and in 1931 when they moved into the Spring Creek congregation he attended there. Here he became active in many lines of church work. He was the president of the young people's department, was assistant superintendent of the Sunday school, was chorister of both

church and Sunday school, sang in the church chorus, and directed the music for several evangelistic meetings in neighboring churches.

Under the pastoral leadership of Brother Moyne Landis he felt God's call to the ministry, was licensed on December 8, 1940, installed on December 28, 1940, and fully ordained on February 28, 1943, all in the Spring Creek church, Middle Indiana.

Feeling the need of training, Brother Miller attended the Bible Training School at Bethany Seminary, Chicago, Illinois, from 1941 to 1943. Here he met Zola A. Simpson of Altoona, Pennsylvania, who was later to become his wife. Feeling the need of college training, he attended Manchester College, 1943-46, graduating in the spring of 1946 with a B.S. degree. He then returned to Bethany Seminary. In the summer of 1946, he was married to Zola Simpson in the Juniata Park church, Altoona, Pennsylvania. Together they attended Bethany, where he graduated in 1949 with the B.D. degree. While completing his college and seminary course, Brother Miller was part-time pastor of the South Whitley church, South Whitley, Indiana, 1944-48.

In the fall of 1949 the Millers assumed the pastorate of the Painter Creek and Red River churches, Southern Ohio. Two girls bless the Miller home: Rowena, born in 1947, and Anita, born in 1950.

### DEAN MILLER

Dean Miller is one of the recently licensed young men of this district, being elected to the ministry by the Eaton church on August 20, 1953.

The son of George and Esther Miller, he was born on April 12, 1935, at Dayton, Ohio.

He completed high school and then entered Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois, beginning his preparation for the active ministry.



## JAMES M. MOORE

James M. Moore, son of Elder J. H. Moore, long-time editor of the *Gospel Messenger*, and Mary S. Bishop Moore, was born on February 7, 1876, near Urbana, Illinois.

He married Ella Kessler, of Astoria, Illinois, on August 17, 1898. Two children were born to them.



James Moore and Wife

Brother Moore was baptized at Keuka, Florida, in 1887, and elected to the ministry on October 1, 1899, at the time of the organization of the Elgin Church of the Brethren. He was ordained an elder at the Batavia church, Illinois, in 1907.

His education was received in the public schools, Mount Morris Academy, and Bethany Bible School Training School. From 1905 to 1917 he was with Bethany Bible School, as student, trustee, and financial secretary.

After 1918 he gave his full time to pastoral work, first at Lanark, Illinois, 1918-22, then at Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, 1922-30. In 1930 he became the pastor of the First church, Chicago, continuing there until 1935. He went to Lititz, Penn-

sylvania, in 1935 and was pastor there until 1945, when he came to Southern Ohio as pastor of the Poplar Grove church. Here he continued to serve efficiently, in spite of his years, until his death on January 28, 1955.

Sister Moore passed away on April 2, 1949, just following the observance of their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Brother Moore attended thirty-nine Annual Conferences, acting in 1930 as moderator. Eight times he was a Standing Committeeman, twice the writing clerk and twice the reading clerk of the Conference.

#### DELMAR MOYER

Delmar Harrison Moyer, son of Harrison C. and Glenna Stebbins Moyer, was born July 13, 1924, near Dayton, Ohio.

After completing high school in Montgomery County, he entered Manchester College, receiving the A.B. degree in 1946. In 1949 he was graduated from Bethany Biblical Seminary with the B.D. degree.

He served as summer pastor of the Fairview church, Southern Indiana, in 1948, and has been the part-time pastor of the Oakley church, Southern Illinois, since 1949.

#### GLEN A. MOYER

Glen A. Moyer was born on a farm near Alvordton, Ohio, on June 20, 1895, the son of Mahlon and Emma Rittenhouse Moyer, of Pennsylvania Dutch descent.

He united with the Church of the Brethren in 1904.

He completed his high school work in 1915 in the Fayette schools, Fulton County, Ohio. He took the B.A. degree at Manchester College in 1920, the B.D. from Bethany Seminary in 1921, and the M.Th. in 1922. His education was interrupted by a call to the army in 1918. He chose noncombatant service and served in camp hospitals in Jackson, South Carolina, and Camp Beau Desert, France.



Elected to the ministry in 1921, he was ordained an elder in 1924 by the Cincinnati church.

On June 20, 1921, he married Mabel Rasor. They have one daughter.



Glen Moyer and Wife

From September 1923 to January 1925 the Moyers had charge of the Cincinnati church. Following the Cincinnati pastorate he taught school at Wengerlawn, Montgomery County, from 1925 to 1928 and preached at the Prices Creek and West Branch churches. Then he taught for three years in the Monroe Township high school, continuing to preach at West Branch, and was also elder of the church the last two years.

He became the principal of the Lanier high school, Preble County, in 1931, and of the Butler Township school, Darke County, in 1945, where he still is employed.

Besides preaching in the above churches he has supplied many other congregations of the district. Locally he is very active in the Greenville church, having been a member of various committees and a church-school teacher.

## CLYDE MULLIGAN

Clyde Mulligan is a native of the Northwestern District of Ohio. His parents, Thomas and Catherine Weis Mulligan, were of the Lick Creek congregation. He was born near Evansport on April 23, 1898.



Clyde Mulligan and Wife

He began his life career by teaching in the public schools after taking training in Defiance College, Ohio.

His earlier activities in the church, after he became a member, were in the Sunday school as teacher and then as superintendent. On May 29, 1920, the Lick Creek church installed him into the ministry. The fall of 1921 he entered Manchester College; he graduated with the class of 1924, with the A.B. degree. In December of 1926 he was ordained an elder by the Olivet church.

His marriage to Bertha E. Mellott, of the Lick Creek congregation, took place on November 25, 1921; they attended Manchester College together. She completed two years of the A.B. course by the time he graduated. He acted as dean of



the men's home during the last two years of his college training.

After graduation he was called to the pastorate of the Olivet church of Northeastern Ohio, serving there a little over ten years. It was during the latter part of this term that he attended for three consecutive summers the short-term Rural Church School at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee.

In the fall of 1934 Brother Mulligan became pastor of the Hartville church, of the same district. In 1941 his health failed and he was obliged to give up pastoral work. By 1943 he was able to resume a limited preaching schedule and in 1945 he was called to the pastorate of the Woodworth church, where he continued for seven years. This made twenty-eight years among the churches of Northeastern Ohio. While in that district he was for thirteen years on the Board of Christian Education and for short periods a trustee of Camp Zion and dean of the intermediate camp. He was chairman of the Joint Boards of the district for two years. Two times he represented his district on Standing Committee.

In July of 1952 he was installed as pastor of the Happy Corner church, where he serves at the present time.

They have two living children, one son and one daughter, Robert James and Lois Eileen.

### DARRELL R. MURRAY

Darrell R. Murray was born March 9, 1897, in Dayton, Ohio, the son of Daniel C. and Sarah Erbaugh Murray. He united with the West Dayton (now Mack Memorial) church in October of 1909. This same church called him to the ministry on April 27, 1916, and the Fort McKinley church ordained him an elder on June 2, 1926.

He married Orpha Alice Michael, of Sidney, Indiana, on June 5, 1921. They have two sons, Robert Keith and Richard Allen.

Brother Murray received his A.B. degree from Manchester College in 1921 and his M.A. from Ohio State University in 1930. He taught industrial arts in the academy of Manchester College from 1917 to 1921.

In 1916 and 1917 he did some preaching in the Troy church. While attending Manchester College he was the pastor of Plunge Creek Chapel, Middle Indiana (1918-21). He pastored the Union City church from 1921 to 1923, then the Fort McKinley congregation from 1923 to 1928.



D. R. Murray and Wife

Having moved to Columbus and being employed as a teacher in the public schools he began preaching for the Brethren church there. This church, in June 1930, was organized as the Co-operative Brethren church including both Brethren and Church of the Brethren members. He was made pastor of the newly organized congregation in June 1930, and has served continuously to the present time. During this time he has also taught in the Columbus schools.

Since 1947 Brother Murray has also been preaching Sunday evenings for the Charleston church, near Chillicothe, Ohio.

### R. H. NICODEMUS

Rutherford H. Nicodemus was born in Miami County, Ohio, on January 1, 1877, the son of Harrison and Paulina Linger Nicodemus.

He attended Manchester College and Bethany Biblical Seminary, from which he received the B.S.L. degree.



His marriage to Nancy E. Swartzbaugh took place in 1899. They had two daughters, Pauline and Clara. After the decease of his first wife he married Gladys Upton in 1939.

Elected to the ministry in 1904, he was ordained an elder in 1908. He taught in Manchester College and in Bethany Biblical Seminary, and served in the ministry in Michigan. His service to the District of Southern Ohio was as pastor of our churches in Highland and Adams counties, and of the Sidney church for several years. He has retired and lives at Sturgis, Michigan.

### JESSE NOFFSINGER

Jesse Noffsinger was born May 24, 1882, the son of Amos and Fianna Neidich Noffsinger.

Graduating from the Jefferson Township high school, Montgomery County, Ohio, he spent some time in Bethany Biblical Seminary. He engaged in teaching for several years and then turned to farming.

His marriage to Flora Dils took place on January 1, 1905. They had four sons: Robert, Paul, Ross, and Ray. Paul and Ross are ministers.

Brother Noffsinger acted as elder of the Stonelick church for about eight years and was for several years joint elder of the Lower Miami church.

He was active in the county farm organizations and was a leader in his community.

His death occurred on February 7, 1949. The widow still resides on the home farm.

### JOHN S. NOFFSINGER

John S. Noffsinger was born near Dayton, Ohio, on December 21, 1886, to Amos and Fianna Neidich Noffsinger.

After graduation from the Jefferson Township high school, Montgomery County, he enrolled in Mount Morris College, Illinois, receiving the A.B. degree in 1913. Chicago University gave him the A.M. degree in 1915 and Columbia

University, New York, the Ph.D. degree in 1925. Steed Institute of Technology gave him the honorary LL.D. degree in 1948.

He married Florence M. Wieand on August 3, 1912. She was the daughter of Elder Theodore Wieand of the Franklin Grove church, Illinois. They have one daughter, Pauline Joy, of Toronto, Ontario.



J. S. Noffsinger and Wife

His home congregation, the Lower Miami church, elected him to the ministry in 1905 and the Franklin Grove church, Northern Illinois and Wisconsin, ordained him an elder in 1915.

As a schoolteacher and administrator he served the public schools of Illinois and of the Philippine Islands. He was the president of Mount Morris College from 1915 to 1918. Later he was identified with many educational organizations and institutions, as executive director or president—among them the National Home Study Council, the National Council of Business Schools, the National Council of Technical Schools, the National Federation of Private Schools, and the National Council on Vocational Education.

For ten years he was a trustee of Juniata College, Pennsylvania, and for thirteen years the secretary-treasurer of the General Educational Board of the Church of the Brethren. He served the Brooklyn church, New York, as pastor and elder for four years. He represented his district three times on Standing Committee and was its reading clerk one year.

At the present time he is the executive director of Inter-



national Voluntary Services, Inc., and in this capacity has visited underdeveloped areas throughout the world, finding where technical assistance is needed.

He is the author of the book, *A Program for Higher Education in the Church of the Brethren*.

Mrs. Noffsinger was born near Wooster, Ohio. She took her A.B. degree at Mount Morris College, Illinois, in 1917, and her A.M. degree at Columbia University, New York, in 1925, and then pursued further training in France. She taught in Hunter College and in Union Theological Seminary, New York City, and is now the president of Management Counsellors, Washington, D. C., in which city the Noffsingers reside.

### PAUL NOFFSINGER

Paul Noffsinger is the second son of Elder Jesse and Flora Dils Noffsinger, born June 3, 1911, in Montgomery County, Ohio.

After completing his high school training at the Jefferson Township high school, Montgomery County, he entered Manchester College, Indiana, graduating with the A.B. degree in 1933. He continued in Ohio State University, 1934-35, and spent the summer of 1948 in Garrett Biblical Institute.

He married M. Mildred Thorne, of Williams County, Ohio, on June 15, 1935. They have three children, Jean Marie, James Paul, and Lois Faye.

His home church, Lower Miami, elected him to the ministry in September 1933. He was ordained an elder by the Manchester church, North Manchester, Indiana, in January 1954.

Brother Noffsinger has served the Walnut Grove church, Northwestern Ohio, and the Michigan City church, Northern Indiana, as pastor. While in Northwestern Ohio he was on the Brethren Service Committee and was the secretary of the Joint Boards. In Middle Indiana he acted as stewardship education secretary.

He was a member of the public relations committee for

the World Council of Churches Conference—Festival of Faiths sessions, 1954.

From 1948 to 1954 he was the field secretary for Manchester College. At present he is the sales manager for the Everyday Poultry Supply Company, Sidney, Ohio. He resides in Sidney and is active in the church in that city.

### ROSS LAWRENCE NOFFSINGER

Ross Lawrence Noffsinger was born into a minister's home on October 27, 1917, the son of Elder Jesse and Flora Dils Noffsinger. The home was in Montgomery County, south of Dayton.



Ross Noffsinger

Following graduation from the Jefferson Township high school, he entered Manchester College, graduating in 1940 with the B.S. degree. In 1943 he received the B.D. degree from Bethany Biblical Seminary. He took graduate work in the University of Illinois during the summer of 1943, in the col-



lege of agriculture. Also in 1950 and 1951 he enrolled in the Summer School for Rural Leaders at Oberlin College, Ohio. He received a scholarship as the Rural Minister of the Year, in Ohio, in the Church of the Brethren.

He united with the Lower Miami church in 1925, which congregation elected him to the ministry on June 1, 1939, and ordained him into the full ministry on September 1, 1940. The Des Moines Valley church in Iowa ordained him to the eldership on September 18, 1946.

Mary Carolyn Stone became his wife on March 8, 1942. She also was the child of a minister, the Reverend and Mrs. Paul D. Stone, of Wabash, Indiana. There are three children, Ted, Joan, and Stanley Jay.

His first pastorate was at Hancock, Minnesota, in the summer of 1940. He was the part-time pastor at Portland, Indiana, Middle District, for one year, 1941-42. Then he was the full-time pastor of the Des Moines Valley church, Middle Iowa, for five years, 1943 to 1948. He returned to his native church district, Southern Ohio, in 1948, as pastor of the Donnels Creek church, where he still serves. Brother Noffsinger has been the elder of several churches, being at present elder of the Springfield, Ohio, church.

He has also taken responsibility in this district as an officer and is a member of the new District Board. In 1947 he served as moderator for the Middle Iowa conference. He is a member of the town and country church committee of the Ohio Council of Churches, acting as chairman for one year recently, and for two years has been a member of the Brotherhood Rural Life Committee. In 1948 he was a member of the Standing Committee from Middle Iowa.

### IRA A. OREN

Ira A. Oren was born September 16, 1904, near Trotwood, Ohio, the son of Elder Alva W. and Alma Mummert Oren.

He finished his high school training at Englewood, Ohio, and spent one year in Manchester College, Indiana.

On June 16, 1928, he was married to Ruth E. Engle. They have four children, one son and three daughters.

The Happy Corner congregation elected him to the ministry in August 1932 and ordained him an elder in August 1936.

Brother Oren served the Happy Corner church for many years and the Hamilton church for a short while. In the fall of 1953 he became pastor of the Cedar Grove church, where he continues at the present time.



Ira Oren and Wife

After teaching for two years he became a plasterer by trade. Then he was employed by Delco Products Corporation for several years. Returning to plastering and farming, he continued until his call to Cedar Grove. Mrs. Oren has taught in the public schools for several years. She has her B.S. degree from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

While at Cedar Grove he is taking some college work at Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana.

He has been the elder of the Happy Corner church continuously since 1936, and has been on the Brethren Home Board for eight years. He is the chairman of this board.



## J. E. OVERHOLSER

J. E. Overholser was born at Bradford, on November 21, 1885, a son of Levi and Emma Overholser.

He united with the Church of the Brethren at Harris Creek in November of 1895. On December 24, 1908, he was married to Esther Frey. Following her decease he married Ida Henschew Young on June 7, 1953.

A charter member of the Bradford church, he was subsequently a member of the building committee responsible for the erection of the new house of worship; he was ordained to the ministry by this congregation on March 18, 1918.

Brother Overholser was employed at the Brethren Publishing House, Elgin, Illinois, during the years 1909 to 1912. He is now engaged in the insurance business in Bradford.



J. E. Overholser and Wife



Raymond R. Peters and Wife

## RAYMOND R. PETERS

Raymond R. Peters was born at Wirtz, Virginia, on December 28, 1905, to J. B. and Lizzie Peters.



After his public-school training he attended Daleville Academy, Virginia, and Bridgewater College, Virginia, graduating, A.B. degree, in 1928. Later he took his B.D. degree from Bethany Biblical Seminary; subsequently the seminary gave him the honorary D.D. degree.

His marriage to Kathryn Eller took place at Daleville, Virginia, on June 20, 1930. They have two children, Barbara Gray and J. Bentley.

He taught school in Virginia for five years. His election to the ministry took place in 1925 in the Brick church, Southern Virginia; he was ordained an elder at the Daleville, Virginia, church in 1932.

As pastor, Brother Peters served the Selma and Daleville churches in Virginia and the church at Independence, Kansas. He was the elder of the Elgin and Mount Morris churches in Northern Illinois, and is at present the moderator of the Trotwood church and the elder of the West Milton church, this district.

Becoming the executive secretary for the Southeastern Region in 1938, he left the region to become the director of youth work for the Brotherhood in 1940. In 1944 he became the executive secretary of the Board of Christian Education, and was elected general secretary of the General Brotherhood Board in 1947, continuing in this capacity until 1952, when he resigned to become the executive secretary of the Church Federation of Greater Dayton, in which position he still serves.

He was a member of the Board of Administration of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin and represented the district on Standing Committee. At this time he is a member of the District Board of Southern Ohio and represents the district on the Central Regional Board.

In the ecumenical movement Brother Peters served four years as a member of the executive committee of the Federal Council of Churches and for the same period on the board of trustees of the International Council of Religious Education. He was also a member of the General Board of the National Council of Churches for four years. He is now a member of the committee on program and field strategy of the National Council of Churches.



## W. W. PETERS

W. W. Peters, widely-known educator in the church, was born June 21, 1889, at Boones Mill, Virginia, to Isaac and Mary Ellen Peters. At the age of eight years he came with his parents to Southern Ohio, locating near the West Charleston church.



W. W. Peters and Wife

Here he grew up, finished high school at the Bethel Township schools, and began the teaching profession the next year. Entering Manchester College, he graduated with the class of 1915. In 1921 he received his Master's degree from Ohio State University. Later he entered the University of Illinois, completing the residence work for the Ph.D. degree. In 1941 he was granted the LL.D. degree by Manchester College. He was elected a minister in 1911 and ordained an elder in 1919 by the Hickory Grove church (West Charleston).

He married E. Rowena Stoner of Ladoga, Indiana, on June 21, 1917. They have three children: Lina Catherine Baldwin, Dale Woodford, and Donald Stoner.

His public-school work continued in Ohio while he had charge of the Bethel Township schools, 1915-19. Then he was at Manchester College as dean of education from 1919 until 1925. He returned in 1939 as head of the department of education, remaining until 1941. In the interim he was president of Mount Morris College, Illinois, 1925-28; teacher of education,

University of Illinois, 1928-36; and dean of Drury College, Missouri, 1936-39. From 1941 to 1950 he was the president of McPherson College, Kansas.

From 1950 to 1953 Brother Peters was the director of Brethren Service work in Austria. Returning, he taught in Elizabethtown College, Pennsylvania, 1953-54. In 1954 he retired to Wichita, Kansas, where he and Mrs. Peters now reside.

Brother Peters has been honored by many educational societies and is listed in *Who's Who in America*.

He has served as moderator of the General Conference and as a member of the Brethren Service Commission of the General Brotherhood Board.

### C. H. PETRY

C. H. Petry was born October 10, 1884, to Michael M. and Catherine Stump Petry, in Preble County, Ohio.

He studied in the local schools, in Manchester College (B. Acc'ts degree), and for two and one-half years in Bethany Seminary.

He married Roxie E. Jones at Berthold, North Dakota, on November 15, 1905. To them eight children were born, four of whom are ministers.

The Berthold church elected him to the ministry in 1907 and gave him the eldership in 1910.

Brother Petry has held pastorates in Northeastern Ohio, Southern Ohio, and the District of Florida, Georgia, and Puerto Rico. In the first of these he was pastor of the Springfield and Akron City churches. He served East Dayton from 1941 until 1951, when he was called to be pastor of the Miami, Florida, church.

He was a member of Standing Committee from Northeastern Ohio and a member of the Ministerial Board of that district, and has been moderator of the Florida, Georgia, and Puerto Rico conference.



## EDGAR G. PETRY

Edgar G. Petry, the son of Walter A. and Ola Grossnickle Petry, was born to them on August 14, 1917, near West Manchester, Ohio.

He attended the Monroe Township schools, Preble County, Ohio, and enrolled in Manchester College, graduating with the A.B. degree in 1939. He attended Bethany Biblical Seminary and graduated in 1942.

The Castine church, this district, ordained him to the ministry on August 20, 1938. The Cedar Grove church ordained him an elder on April 30, 1946.

He has held pastorates at Octavia, Nebraska, summer of 1939; Cedar Grove, Southern Ohio, 1941-46; and Pleasant View, Northwestern Ohio, since 1946.

On August 14, 1938, he was married to Mary Elizabeth Beasley; they have three children, Edgar G., Jr., Judith Ann, and Stephen Leigh.

Brother Petry is a member of the District Board of Northwestern Ohio, director of Christian education, and also clerk of the district conference. Sister Petry is on the Women's Work Cabinet of that district.

## WILMER A. PETRY

Wilmer A. Petry was born near Berthold, North Dakota, on June 27, 1907. He is the son of Chester H. and Roxie Petry.

The family moved to Troy, Ohio, in 1918, and two years later to Virginia, where he finished high school. They returned to this district in 1924. Here he contracted polio, which left him crippled in his limbs.

The Trevilian church, Eastern Virginia, licensed him to the ministry in August of 1924. He was ordained to the full ministry in 1926 and ordained an elder by the Pitsburg church in 1931.

He was part-time pastor of the Pitsburg church from 1928 to 1933, after preaching for a while at the Hamilton church. While pastor at Pitsburg he also served Pleasant Valley part of this time. Later he served Pleasant Valley and Poplar

Grove. In 1934 he moved to the Akron church, Northeastern Ohio. At present he is the pastor of the more recently organized Eastwood congregation in that district.

Edna Lucille Brower, of Preble County, Ohio, became his wife on November 20, 1929. They have four children—three sons and one daughter.

Brother Petry was a member of the Historical Committee of Southern Ohio, and the Ministerial Board and the Board of Christian Education of Northeastern Ohio. He has been a member of the Joint Boards and of the Brethren Service Committee also, and has been the moderator of district conference and the district's delegate on Standing Committee.

### GEORGE W. PHILLIPS

George W. Phillips was born December 29, 1893, near Goshen, Indiana, to Louis Frank and Alice Miller Phillips.

He attended the elementary schools of Elkhart County and completed his high school work in the Academy of Goshen College. Entering Manchester College, he graduated with the A.B. degree in 1917. He was enrolled in Bethany Biblical Seminary, 1919-21, and received the B.D. degree in 1935, following some work by correspondence. He then took graduate work in both Indiana University and Bexley Hall Seminary of Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio. Manchester College granted him the A.M. degree in 1921.

On May 26, 1917, he was married to Gertrude H. Schwalm, daughter of Elder and Mrs. H. M. Schwalm. They have one daughter, Dorothy, now Mrs. Donald Larson.

Brother Phillips was elected to the ministry in 1917 by the Rock Run church, Northern Indiana, and ordained to the eldership in 1922 by the Walton church, Middle Indiana.

Beginning his career as a teacher he first taught in the elementary grades and later in the high schools of Millersburg and Walton, Indiana.

His active ministry began as summer pastor of the Rock Run church in 1920; then he served part time in the Walton church, 1921-26. In the latter year he became pastor of the



Danville church, Northeastern Ohio. In 1935 he was called to the Elkhart City church, Northern Indiana, where he labored until 1950, when he came to Southern Ohio as pastor of the Bear Creek church.



George Phillips and Wife

He was on the Board of Christian Education in both Northeastern Ohio and Northern Indiana, and also on the Mission-Ministerial Board of the latter. He represented this district also on the Central Regional Council and was a director of Camp Mack. Twice he was the moderator of the district conference in Northern Indiana and was the assistant moderator in Southern Ohio in 1952. He was one of the first members of the District Board here. Several times he has represented on Standing Committee.

### JOHN PERRY PRATHER

John Perry Prather was born November 2, 1893, near Oologah, Oklahoma, to Thomas and Cora Prather.

On August 11, 1921, he was married to Hope Lulah Dear-dorff of Yale, Iowa. She is a registered nurse. They have one son, Perry Ellis, of Saginaw, Michigan.

He graduated from the Mound City, Missouri, high school and attended Bethany Biblical Seminary three years. He took the A.B. degree from McPherson College, Kansas, in 1920, and the B.D. degree from Yale Divinity School in 1925. Further courses were taken from the University of Michigan. McPherson College granted him the honorary D.D. degree in 1947.

Elected to the ministry in 1914 by the North Bethel church, Mound City, Missouri, he was ordained an elder by the Ashland, Ohio, church on January 27, 1928.

He began his active ministry as student pastor at Conway Springs, Kansas, 1920-22. While in Yale Divinity School he was pastor of the First Congregational church, Bethany, Connecticut. In August 1925 he became pastor of the First Church of the Brethren at Ashland, Ohio, remaining until 1933.

Brother Prather came to this district as pastor of the West Dayton church in November of 1933; here he remained until October 1944, when he became pastor of the Detroit church, Michigan. In 1949 he took the pastorate of the Waterloo, Iowa, church, and is continuing there.

While in this district he was a member of the Board of Christian Education for about ten years, having previously been a member of the same board in Northeastern Ohio. Also he served on the Board of Administration for the District of Michigan and for the District of Northern Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota. He was several times a member of Standing Committee and moderator of district conference in each district where he resided.

He has been active in camp work and in interdenominational activities. While in Dayton he was a member of the city board of education. In 1939 he attended the Amsterdam, Holland, youth conference. He has twice gone as a visiting delegate to assemblies of the National Council of Churches.



## CLARENCE G. PRISER

Clarence G. Priser was born at New Lebanon, Ohio, on November 12, 1906, the son of Elder Harvey and Ida May Garst Priser.

He attended high school at the Johnsville high school, graduating in 1925. From Manchester College he received



Clarence Priser and Wife

the A.B. degree in 1932. In addition he attended Ohio State University and Miami University, at Oxford, Ohio, each for one term, and took some seminary training. He taught in the public schools of Ohio for nine years.

Brother Priser united with the Church of the Brethren at the Eversole church, where he was licensed to preach in 1926, ordained to the ministry on December 5, 1929, and made an elder on May 25, 1939.

On November 28, 1929, he was married to Gladys M. King. They have a son, Byron Cleary Priser, who is in Brethren Volunteer Service at Falfurrias, Texas.

In the free ministry Brother Priser has served at the

Eversole church and supplied in many churches in Ohio and Indiana. Similarly he worked in churches in Florida. In Southern Ohio he was part-time pastor of the West Charleston church (1943-44) and the Beaver Creek church (1945-48). From 1951 to 1954 he served part-time in the Gratis church. In September 1954 he began as interim pastor at East Dayton.

He has been active in the weekday religious education program of his community and in the Hi-Y organization of the high school.

After leaving the teaching profession he set up a portrait studio at Brookville and is co-operating with the Historical Committee in getting suitable photographs for this volume.

### JOHN G. RARICK

John G. Rarick was born in Indiana County, Pennsylvania, to John B. and Sarah Fry Rarick, on April 2, 1861. When he was a child the family moved to Darke County, Ohio. Later they moved to the vicinity of Mississinewa, Indiana.

He was married to Anna Gump on September 27, 1884.

His home church called him to the deacon's office in 1886 and to the ministry in 1897. He was ordained an elder on December 1, 1906.

The family later moved to California, then to Iowa, and then to Ohio, locating in the Pleasant Valley congregation. Wherever he lived he served in the ministry.

He followed the vocations of farmer, rural mail carrier, and dealer in produce, the latter at Eaton, Ohio.

### JAMES E. RENZ

James E. Renz, son of Fred W. and Madaline Renz, was born near Greenville, Ohio, on September 20, 1918. Following graduation from the Greenville high school, he studied for one year at Indiana Technical College, Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Further education led to the A.B. degree from Manchester



College and the B.D. degree from Bethany Biblical Seminary. Also included in his education were courses on the alcohol problem and its solution given at the Yale University School of Alcohol Studies, the University of Chicago, and other related schools.



James Renz

He was licensed to the ministry in January 1939, ordained a minister in January 1940, and ordained an elder in 1946. Pastorates served include Wabash City, Indiana, in 1943 and 1944; Lima, Ohio, from 1944 to 1948; and the Bethel church at Naperville, Illinois, from 1950 to 1952. He was on Standing Committee in 1947.

On September 12, 1942, he was married to Lois Ruth Burns of Fort Wayne, Indiana. They are the parents of three girls: Myralee, Linda Lou, and Roberta Jo.

From June 1948 to September 1, 1952, he worked on a part-time basis for the General Brotherhood Board as temperance director. During this time the seminary course was completed, and for two years pastoral work was done at Naper-



ville. Since September 1, 1952, his full energy and time have been devoted to the planning and direction of temperance work within the Brotherhood.

### DOLAR C. RITCHEY

Dolar C. Ritchey was born at Rossville, Indiana, on April 6, 1899, to Aaron and Christina Ritchey.

He united with the Church of the Brethren at Rossville in 1919. He attended high school here, normal school at



Dolar Ritchey and Wife

Marion, Indiana, summer school at Winona Lake, Indiana, and college at Manchester College. Some work was taken at Vincennes University in Indiana.

He was married to Ella May Wenner on July 28, 1920; she passed away June 24, 1924, leaving two children in the care of the father. On November 6, 1926, he married Lois Mary Teegarden. A son, Donald, now in Bethany Seminary, was born to them.



Brother Ritchey was licensed to the ministry at the Pike Creek church, Southern Indiana, in 1925. The Howard church, same district, ordained him to the full ministry in 1928. He was made an elder in 1933 by the La Motte Prairie church, Southern Illinois.

After teaching several years in the public schools he then began his pastoral work with the Howard church, Southern Indiana, in 1926. In 1929 he took up the work with the La Motte Prairie church, coming in 1944 to Southern Ohio as pastor of the Beech Grove church, where he continues as both pastor and elder. He is also the elder of several near-by churches and is a member of the District Board. While in Southern Illinois he served on the Board of Administration and as ministerial secretary for that district.

### DONALD RITCHEY

Donald Ritchey, the son of Elder Dolar and Lois Ritchey, was born at Palestine, Illinois, on June 14, 1930.

He finished his high school work at Hollansburg, Ohio, and entered Manchester College, completing the work for the B.S. degree in 1952. He is in Bethany Seminary, Chicago, in the class of 1955.

Mary Alice Lenker became his wife on August 30, 1953.

The Beech Grove church licensed him to preach, on December 29, 1949, and ordained him to the ministry on January 3, 1951.

His pastoral experience includes two summers, one at Hiwassee, the other at Fairview and Good Will, both parishes in Southern Virginia.

### JOHN AMOS ROBINSON

John Amos Robinson, son of Thomas A. and Addaline Gish Robinson, was born on July 11, 1889, at Baldwin, Kansas. He attended Bethany Biblical Seminary, Chicago, and took work with the American Extension University. He married

Nora Edna Minnich on July 16, 1912. They have two sons, Paul Minnich and Donald Lee.

Brother Robinson was elected to the ministry on July 17, 1909, at Muscatine, Iowa, and was ordained to the eldership



J. A. Robinson and Wife

on December 5, 1916. He has held five pastorates: First church, Denver, Colorado, 1911-14; First church, Des Moines, Iowa, 1914-19; Pleasant Hill, Ohio, 1919-25; Walnut Grove, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, 1929-52; Ephrata, Pennsylvania, 1952 to the present time.

In Southern Ohio he was the adult adviser for the young people, the director of religious education, the editor of the *Southern Ohio Herald*, and the director of Sugar Grove Camp. In Western Pennsylvania he was adult adviser to the young people's department, a member of the District Mission Board, and a trustee of Camp Harmony. In June 1924 he became a member of the General Ministerial Board and was its secretary from 1925 to 1931. He has served as reader of Annual Conference and as a member of Standing Committee. He was moderator of district conference in Middle Iowa, Southern



Ohio, and Western Pennsylvania. He has been on the Eastern Region Advisory Council and a member of the executive committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches. Brother Robinson has conducted over one hundred seventy-five evangelistic meetings.

### PAUL MINNICH ROBINSON

Paul Minnich Robinson, son of John A. and Nora Minnich Robinson, was born in Denver, Colorado, on January 26, 1914.

He graduated from the Johnstown Central high school, Pennsylvania, and entered Juniata College, same state, graduating with the A.B. degree in 1935. His seminary training was received at Princeton Theological Seminary, New Jersey, from which he graduated in 1938, B.D. degree. Then going to the Lutheran Seminary, at Mt. Airy, Pennsylvania, he took the S.T.M. degree in 1941. Juniata College conferred on him the degree of D.D. in 1948, and Bridgewater College the LL.D. in 1953.

He was married at Johnstown, Pennsylvania, on June 29, 1938, to Mary Elizabeth Howe, daughter of William M. Howe. They have two children, Margaret Joanne and Thomas Barton.

His election to the ministry took place on September 2, 1931, at the Walnut Grove church, Western Pennsylvania. Ordained by the Ambler congregation, Pennsylvania, in 1939, he served in two pastorates: Ambler, Pennsylvania, and Hagerstown, Maryland, the first for three and a half years and the second for thirteen and one-half years. He was called from Hagerstown to become president of Bethany Biblical Seminary in 1953.

Brother Robinson has shared his endowments in many important positions in the Brotherhood: as a member of the committee which compiled the new hymnal; as president of the National Pastors' Association, as a member of the General Brotherhood Board, and as the vice-moderator of the 1955 Annual Conference.

He has had experience as a radio preacher, as a counselor, and as a writer, has traveled extensively in Europe and

the Middle East, and has already received high recognition as a seminary president.

The family resides in Villa Park, a suburb of Chicago.

### LAWRENCE RODAMER

Lawrence Rodamer was born August 27, 1912, at Constance, Kentucky, to Andrew and Flora Peeno Rodamer.

He completed high school at Hebron, Kentucky, and attended Eastern Kentucky State College, graduating in 1942. He secured the M.E. degree in 1952 at the University of Cincinnati.

On February 5, 1938, he was married to Hannah Weber, at Covington, Kentucky.

Licensed and then ordained a minister in 1946 by the Constance church, Kentucky, he is assisting in the ministry at this church.

By vocation he is a public-school teacher.

### I. J. ROSENBERGER

I. J. Rosenberger was born April 20, 1842, near Tiffin, Ohio, to Daniel and Elizabeth Rosenberger.

He first became a schoolteacher and later turned to the active ministry, which soon consumed most of his time, much of it in evangelistic work.

He married Mary Workman of Wooster, Ohio. She died in 1913. In 1917 he married Melissa C. Young, widow of Abram Young.

The church at Loudonville, Northeastern Ohio, elected him to the ministry. He was ordained an elder by the Covington church. Most of his life was spent in the Covington church, but he was away from the congregation in evangelistic services most of the year. In 1918 he moved to Greenville.

His service to the district was rendered as a member of the Mission Board in its earliest days, as moderator of district



meeting several times, and as delegate on Standing Committee. At various times he was the elder of several churches in the district. He was also a writer, contributing to the Brethren publications and to the writing of tracts, and was the author of several books. He was a member of the Historical Committee which brought forth the 1920 edition of the Southern Ohio history.

His death occurred at Greenville, Ohio, in 1923.

### GALEN B. ROYER

Galen B. Royer, born April 10, 1894, near Greenville, Ohio, is the son of Moses and Rebecca Minnich Royer.

He completed high school and enrolled in Manchester College, Indiana, taking his A.B. degree in 1917. He later attended Bethany Biblical Seminary.

On December 24, 1917, he married Nellie J. Credlebaugh. They had three children. After her decease he was married to Gladys Marie Cole, of Colgate, Ohio, in 1933. They have two children.

His election to the ministry by the Painter Creek church occurred in 1916. The Nappanee church, Northern Indiana, ordained him an elder in 1925.

Brother Royer has pastored the Huntington church, Middle Indiana, and the Oakland church, this district, and assisted at West Milton, Red River, and Bear Creek. For a while he was the director of religious education for Northern Illinois and Wisconsin.

The family resides in Dayton, where he is engaged in business.

### WILLIAM E. ROYER

William E. Royer is the son of Samuel and Mary Royer, born to them on April 28, 1878, at New Madison, Ohio.

He attended school in Darke County. On November 28, 1901, he was married to Elizabeth Landis. He has engaged

mostly in farming. For a time he lived at Bradford, where he was elected to the ministry in 1919. About ten years later he was advanced to the eldership. He moved to the Painter Creek church and then to the Pittsburg church, where he still resides.

### GLENN C. RUST

Glenn C. Rust, son of Melvin and Hannah Rust, was born near Eaton, Ohio, on September 25, 1908.

After completing high school at Monroe, Preble County, he enrolled in Manchester College, graduating, A.B. degree, with the class of 1931. He received his M.A. degree from Miami University, Ohio, in 1946. One year, 1927-28, was spent at Bethany Biblical Seminary.



Glenn Rust and Wife

He taught in Preble County for thirteen years and since 1944 has been in the Dayton schools as an instructor in industrial arts.



From 1931 to 1936 he was the supply pastor of the Castine church, this district, and since the latter date has been giving this church part-time service during the school term and full-time service during the summer.

A member of the Castine church since 1921, he was called to the ministry here in 1927 and was ordained an elder in 1936.

On August 16, 1930, he married Florence Wolford, of West Manchester, Ohio. They have four children: three daughters, Mrs. Barbara Jeanne Plunkett, Joyce Elaine, and Naomi Joan, and one son, Dean Carroll.

Brother Rust has contributed to the work of the District of Southern Ohio in many capacities: as reading clerk in 1948; as a delegate on Standing Committee in 1948; as a member of the Men's Work Cabinet from 1947 to 1951; for several years as a director of Camp Sugar Grove; as adult adviser to the Youth Cabinet; and now as a member of the District Board.

The Rusts reside at West Manchester.

### WILLIAM K. SELL

William K. Sell, the son of George and Peggy Lambert Sell, was born in Randolph County, Indiana, on December 1, 1866.

He married Ida Mae Zumbrum on December 22, 1887.

In 1888 he united with the church at Union City. Later he moved into the Pleasant Valley congregation. This church elected him a deacon in 1906 and a minister on September 10, 1915.

He was the minister of the Pleasant Valley church for about two years and the Fostoria, Ohio, church for a short time, and was superintendent of the Brethren Home for three years.

His wife died in April of 1927. Later he married Susan Weimer of Greenville. They moved to North Manchester, Indiana, where he died on February 8, 1953.



## FRANK ORVAL SHANK

Frank Orval Shank was born February 5, 1890, at Geneva, Indiana. He married Emma Olinger, of Clayton, Ohio, on May 19, 1914. They have one daughter, Virginia L.

Brother Shank was called to the ministry in 1919 while at Bethany Biblical Seminary.

In 1954 he published a book, entitled *The Great Day*, a study in the Book of Revelation.

The Shanks live at Brookville, where he has a business.



F. O. Shank and Wife



Ray Shank and Wife

## RAY O. SHANK

Ray O. Shank, the fourth child of Noah and Anna Sipe Shank, was born near Berne, Indiana, on December 14, 1892. When he was about four months old the family moved to Southern Ohio. He united with the church at Brookville in 1905.

His marriage to Beulah Kreider took place on August



10, 1918. One son and three daughters were born to them.

On August 28, 1918, Brother Shank was called to the ministry by the Brookville church. Soon afterward, 1920, the Shanks enrolled in Bethany Biblical Seminary Training School. Later he enrolled in Lewis Institute, completing three years in the seminary and two and a half years in the institute.

They were then called to the pastorate of the West Charleston church, this district, which they served until 1927. This church ordained him an elder on June 26, 1926. In 1927 the call to the pastorate of the Salamonie church, Middle Indiana, was accepted. In 1930 they began their work in the Flora church, same district, continuing for five years. Returning to his home district, he was installed as pastor of the Oakland church in 1935, where he remained until 1939. After about eighteen months given to evangelistic meetings he accepted a call to the Covington church, where he ministered for ten years, 1941 to 1951.

The family then moved to near Englewood, where he has been giving service to several congregations as elder and supplying pulpit calls where he can.

Brother Shank has held over one hundred evangelistic services. For the districts in which he has lived he has served as moderator, reader, secretary, member of the Men's Work Cabinet, member of the Mission Board, Ministerial Board, and District Board, and as a representative on Standing Committee.

### BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SHARP

Benjamin Franklin Sharp was born at Rose Hill, Darke County, Ohio, on February 4, 1862, the son of Joseph and Alpha Sharp.

He was united in marriage to Rebecca J. Rife on February 6, 1883. They had three children: Arthur J., Mrs. Lillian Onkst, and Mrs. Alvah Richards.

Brother Sharp united with the Eversole church in January of 1881. He was called to the ministry on April 20, 1891, by the Pleasant Valley church, and was ordained an elder by the Poplar Grove church on June 18, 1910.

Besides presiding over his home church he has been elder of the Greenville, Pleasant Valley, and Union City churches, serving the latter at the time of his decease.

He held a number of revival meetings and was the pastor of the Greenville church from 1922 to 1927.

Brother Sharp passed to his reward on May 23, 1931.

### MARK SHELLHAAS

Mark Shellhaas, a native of Miami County, Ohio, was born April 30, 1904, to Bert and Mattie Shellhaas.

He secured his high school education at West Milton and his higher education at Wittenberg College and Ohio State University.



Mark Shellhaas and Wife

On August 15, 1929, he married Thelma Baird, of Winchester, Indiana. They have two children, Charlotte and Philip.



He was elected to the ministry by the Pleasant Hill church in 1925 and to the eldership by the Trotwood church in 1946.

For thirty-four years Brother Shellhaas has been a Sunday-school teacher in the local church. For seventeen years he was on the District Youth Cabinet and was also active in camp work. At present he is a member of the board of directors of Camp Sugar Grove.

He is the superintendent of the Trotwood schools.

### ROBERT L. SHERFY

Robert L. Sherfy (1913—) was born at Colorado Springs, Colorado, the son of Ernest F. and Effie Strohm Sherfy, who have served for over five decades in the ministry of the church. Parsonage-born, he was elected to the ministry in December 1930 at the Daleville, Virginia, church and ordained to the full ministry at Bridgewater in November 1933. He was ordained an elder at the Frederick, Maryland, church in November 1936.

He married Evelyn Clark on July 17, 1935, at Johnson City, Tennessee. They have two children, Robert Dale and Ellen Janine.

Brother Sherfy did his high school work at Daleville Academy, Virginia. He took his college training at Bridgewater College, Virginia, and his seminary work at Bethany Biblical Seminary, graduating with the B.D. degree in 1940. He took a summer-school course in the rural church at Oberlin College, Ohio, in 1952.

His first pastorate was at Frederick, Maryland, 1934-37. He was with the Kokomo, Indiana, church from 1938 to 1941, and the First church, Canton, Ohio, from 1941 to 1944. In 1944 he became pastor of the New Carlisle church, this district, removing to the Harrisonburg, Virginia, church in January 1953.

Brother Sherfy served on the Board of Christian Education of both Northeastern Ohio and Southern Ohio, on the Ministerial Board of the latter, as youth adviser for the two districts named, and as a district officer in each. He was a

member of the committee to study the pension plan of the Brotherhood and was also on the committee that studied the peace education program of our church.

While at New Carlisle he was the president of the New Carlisle Council of Churches, and in 1952 was named the outstanding citizen of the village.

### JAMES W. SIMMONS

James W. Simmons is a native of Miami County, Ohio, born to Crosby E. and Mary Harshbarger Simmons on December 17, 1919.

His education, after high school at Trotwood, included college training at Manchester College and seminary work



James Simmons and Wife

at Bethany Biblical Seminary and Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Illinois.

On November 26, 1942, he was married to Betty Jean Smith. They have one son, Gary Michael.



He was elected to the ministry by the Eversole church in November 1945. The Oakley church, Illinois, elected him to the eldership on September 24, 1954.

Brother Simmons was a summer pastor at Wolfe Creek, Kentucky, and while in the seminary ministered to the Bethel Center church, Middle Indiana. He is now the full-time pastor of the Oakley church, Southern Illinois. In that district he has served as vice-chairman of the Board of Administration and as secretary of the Ministry, Missions and Evangelism Committee, also as secretary of evangelism for the district. He represents the district on the Illinois Council of Churches and is secretary of the local ministerial association.

### WILLIAM K. SIMMONS

William K. Simmons, the son of Aaron and Rebecca Marquis Simmons, was born on August 31, 1841. He was married to Malinda A. Sell in June 1865.

In June of 1866 he became a member of the church, was elected to the ministry in 1867, and was ordained "in the 80's."

He served on district committees setting up the district ministerial meetings, the district Sunday-school meetings, and the district Sunday-school institutes.

Brother Simmons presided over the Union City church from 1887 to 1912. He also had oversight of Bear Creek and Blue Creek, Indiana, and of Pleasant Valley, of this district.

Mrs. Simmons passed away on September 28, 1928, and he was deceased on March 9, 1934.

### BUTLER SIZEMORE

Butler Sizemore comes from Flat Creek, Kentucky, where he was born on November 22, 1929. Completing two years of high school, he enrolled in the Bethany Seminary Training School for one and one-half year.

He was married to Norma Hillsamer of Brethren, Michigan, on November 1, 1950. They have two children, Ruth Anne and Dennis Ray.

His election to the ministry occurred on October 5, 1951, in the Flat Creek church. For more than two years he has been serving the Mud Lick congregation of the Flat Creek parish.

### SAMUEL Z. SMITH

Samuel Z. Smith was born near Bradford, Ohio, on June 20, 1866, the son of Joseph M. and Elizabeth Zerbe Smith.

His education was secured in the public schools and by private reading and study.

His first marriage was to Sarah Mohler, on January 14, 1886. Two children, Iva and Arthur, were born to them. Sister Smith died on August 31, 1893. On November 29, 1894, he married Cora Pittinger, who shared a long service in the ministry with him.

Brother Smith united with the church in 1886, was called to the ministry by the Pittsburg church in 1897, and was ordained an elder by the Sidney church in 1910.

He became pastor of the Sidney church in 1905 and continued until 1925. Then he pastored the Springfield church for a short while and in about 1926 began as Brotherhood evangelist for the Home Mission Board. He passed away at Lonaconing, Maryland, while in evangelistic services at that place.

### C. C. SOLLENBERGER

C. C. Sollenberger was born near Union, Ohio, on February 8, 1891. His parents were Jacob J. and Martha Folkerth Sollenberger. After graduating from the Randolph Township high school he then went to Manchester College. Then followed two years of teaching in the public schools and two years of study in Bethany Biblical Seminary, after which he returned to Manchester College, graduating in 1916.



On August 10, 1916, he was married to Cora Mae Horst, of Spencer, Ohio.

While attending Manchester College he was baptized, and the following year, in 1912, his home church, the Salem church of Southern Ohio, called him to the ministry.



C. C. Sollenberger and Wife

After their marriage, he and his wife began their pastoral ministry in the Circleville church, Southern Ohio, working there from 1916 to 1918. They then moved to Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where they served the Morrellville church from 1918 to 1924. While there he was ordained to the eldership in 1920. His further ministry has been in the Pleasant Hill church, Western Pennsylvania, 1924-28; Walnut Grove (interim pastor), 1928-29; Uniontown, Western Pennsylvania, 1929-41; Ephrata, Eastern Pennsylvania, 1941-45; Salem, Southern Ohio, 1945-50; Sidney, Southern Ohio (interim pastor), 1950-51; and Muncie, Southern Indiana, his present pastorate, 1951—.

While in Western Pennsylvania he was on the District Mission Board for fifteen years and on the District Ministerial Board for three years. He acted as Standing Committeeman

several times and was moderator of district meetings. During his ministry he was the presiding elder of a number of churches, and also held many revival meetings.

They are the parents of three living children: Angela, wife of V. H. Stinebaugh, of North Manchester, Indiana; Paul of McPherson, Kansas; and Carol, a student in Manchester College.

### WALTER C. STINEBAUGH

Walter C. Stinebaugh, born September 24, 1892, in Carroll County, Indiana, is the son of J. G. and Mary Reiff Stinebaugh.

After he completed high school he entered Manchester College, graduating in 1917. He was in Bethany Biblical Seminary from 1919 to 1921.

His first marriage was to Merl Spitler on August 4, 1915; she passed away in 1945. They had four children: Galen, Vernon, Mary Etta (Mrs. Donald Holsopple), and Martha. On April 20, 1947, he was married to Olive Bagwell, daughter of Elder E. B. Bagwell.

He was elected to the ministry on October 3, 1915, by the Lower Deer Creek church, Indiana. On December 30, 1922, the Walton church called him to be an elder.

In Middle Indiana he has served the Walton and Pipe Creek churches on part time, and Logansport, Salamonie, and Wabash City as regular pastor. In Southern Ohio he ministered to the Pittsburg church from 1944 to 1949. Previous to becoming a full-time pastor he was a public-school teacher.

He has worked on various boards and committees in Middle Indiana and on the Men's Work Cabinet in Southern Ohio.

### GEORGE OTIS STUTSMAN

George Otis Stutsman, a native of Girard, Illinois, the son of Valentine B. and Tabitha Gerlach Stutsman, was born on June 3, 1885.

In 1905 he became a member of the church. He was



married to Dorothy Snell of Virden, Illinois, on November 27, 1907. They have five living children and one deceased.

Elected to the ministry by the Girard church in October 1909, he was ordained an elder in 1915.

He received his training for the ministry at Bethany Biblical Seminary, Chicago. In 1934 he came to the Greenville church as pastor, remaining until 1939. Also he has served churches in Illinois, Kansas, and California. The Stutsmans retired from the active ministry in 1952 and are living at La Verne, California.

His extrapastoral activities have included those of trustee of Mount Morris College and of La Verne College; director of Hillcrest Homes, Inc., of La Verne; a member of the Heifers for Relief committee; officer of district conferences; elder of several churches; and member of the Standing Committee.

### CHARLES H. STOCKSDALE

Charles H. Stocksdale was born March 1, 1887, in Darke County, Ohio. His father was Larkin Stocksdale.

He united with the church in 1901 and was elected to the ministry by the Poplar Grove church, this district, on December 3, 1910. He married Grace Noffsinger in 1906.

The Stocksdales lived in Michigan for a short time but spent most of their lives in the vicinity of Union City. He preached for the Pleasant Valley church for some time. They reside in Winchester, Indiana, but are members of the Union City congregation.

### BENJAMIN O. STONER

Benjamin O. Stoner, born on April 22, 1906, to Samuel and Lina Norris Stoner, is a native of Ladoga, Indiana.

His training was received in the high school at Ladoga, Manchester College, A.B. degree, 1928, and the University of Chicago, M.A. degree.

He married Alberta Kolker, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, on

May 27, 1933. They have four children: Mary, John, Martha, and Susan.

The Ladoga church, Southern Indiana, elected him to the ministry in 1929. He has ministered, part time, at the Hamilton and Constance churches.

He is in the life insurance business in Cincinnati. Currently he is the teacher of a large men's class in a Presbyterian church.

### JOHN M. STOVER

John M. Stover, son of Emanuel and Joanna Mohler Stover, was born at Bradford, Ohio, on January 28, 1871. He graduated from the high school here and spent about one year at Mount Morris College, Illinois.

He married Katherine Rose Porter on April 15, 1896. A daughter, Olive, lives at Christiansburg, with whom Brother Stover now makes his home. Sister Stover was active in the Bradford church and a leader in the ladies' aid.

Brother Stover united with the Church of the Brethren in 1886 and was elected to the ministry by the Harris Creek congregation in 1897, which church ordained him an elder in October 1914.

Elder Stover served for many years as elder of the Bradford church. For some time he was elder of the Palestine church, now extinct. He has preached regularly at times at Harris Creek, Oakland, Bradford, Casstown, Columbus, and Palestine, and, upon occasion, at other churches in the district.

He was a long-time employee of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. As this is written he is in his eighty-fourth year. His poetic description of the creation, fall, and redemption of man was published in 1950 under the title, *An Epic of Human Destiny*.

### WALTER R. SWINGER

Walter R. Swinger was born near the Painter Creek church, in Darke County, Ohio, on April 27, 1890, the son of



David and Lovenia Swinger. He became a member of the Painter Creek church in October 1904.

He became a public-school teacher, following this profession for two years.



W. R. Swinger and Wife

On November 26, 1914, he was married to Ruth M. Delk; they have three children, two sons and one daughter, all three being public-school teachers.

Licensed to preach in November of 1925 by the Painter Creek church, in December of the following year he was installed into the full ministry. He was ordained an elder by the Marble Furnace church on September 30, 1930.

His first preaching was for the Painter Creek and Red River churches. Then in 1929 the District Mission Board asked Brother and Sister Swinger to become pastors to the Marble Furnace, Strait Creek, and May Hill churches in Adams and Highland counties. Here they labored ten years, then moved to Pittsburg, where they now reside. During the first few years here Brother Swinger had pastoral charge of the Pittsburg Church of the Brethren, or until the congregation decided on



a full-time pastor. He has not been inactive since then, but both he and Sister Swinger have regularly taught in the church school and he has filled preaching appointments where there was need. She was the first primary superintendent in the Painter Creek church school and was an efficient leader of congregational singing.

Brother Swinger is currently employed as foreman of the shop and mill work of the Rosser Lumber Company, Arcanum, Ohio.

### ROY B. TEACH

Roy B. Teach, the son of David M. and Clara Drescher Teach, was born on June 19, 1887, in Clark County, Ohio, near Springfield.



Roy Teach and Wife

He came into the Donnels Creek church, being baptized in December of 1903. He took his high school training in the Lawrenceville schools, studied in the normal school depart-



ment of Manchester College, then taught school for three years. He enrolled in Bethany Biblical Seminary in 1919 and graduated with the B.S.L. degree in 1924.

Brother Teach was installed as a deacon in the New Carlisle church in 1914, and on May 25, 1918, this same congregation elected him to the ministry, ordaining him into the eldership in October of 1924.

His first pastorate was in the Loon Creek church, Middle Indiana, beginning in September of 1924. In September of 1927 he became director of public relations for McPherson College, Kansas, and continued in this capacity for three years. Then he returned to pastoral work at the Loon Creek church in 1930 and remained here until 1937, when he moved to his home district and became pastor of the Brookville church. After ten years here he went to the Cerro Gordo church in the Southern Illinois District. Four years later he again returned to Southern Ohio, this time to minister to the West Charleston church, where he labors most effectively as this is written.

Alma Barnhart, daughter of Elder and Sister Josephus E. Barnhart, of New Carlisle, Ohio, became his wife on August 20, 1910. They had five daughters: Lois, Ruth, Faye, Donna, and Carolyn. The husband of Faye is Professor Donald R. Frederick, a minister and a professor of music at McPherson College, Kansas. Sister Teach passed away February 3, 1950, while they were at Cerro Gordo. He married Mrs. Ella Studebaker of New Carlisle, Ohio, on June 23, 1951, while attending the San Jose Annual Conference.

Brother Teach was a member of the Missions-Ministerial Board of Middle Indiana and also while in that district was elder of five different churches. In his home district he has served for six years on the Ministerial Board and as elder of six different churches, and is the secretary of the Southern Ohio district conference. While in Southern Illinois he was a member of the Ministerial Board and represented the district on the Central Regional Board. He has represented on Standing Committee; three times he has acted as moderator of district conferences, and once as reader. As secretary of the district he is ex-officio a member of the District Board.

He has now devoted over thirty-five years to the ministry, over twenty-five years of this time having been spent in pastoral work.

The Teaches reside in New Carlisle, serving the West Charleston church from this residence.

### JOEL THOMPSON

Joel Thompson, the son of George K. and Lois Pfeifer Thompson, was born August 10, 1933, at West Milton, Ohio.

He was licensed to the ministry in March of 1951 by the West Milton church.

On August 22, 1952, he married Phyllis D. Yount at West Milton.

They are in Manchester College, where he is a senior, a candidate for the B.S. degree. He is student pastor of the Church of the Brethren, Roann, Indiana.

### MURRAY L. WAGNER

Murray L. Wagner, son of Elmer T. and Lillie Sweitzer Wagner, was born at Glen Rock, Pennsylvania, on September 3, 1905. Following his elementary education in the public schools, he went to Baltimore, Maryland, for employment. Here he became interested in the ministry and was licensed to preach.

He subsequently graduated from Blue Ridge Academy, from Blue Ridge Junior College, and, later, from Elizabethtown College with the A.B. degree. He served in several student and summer pastorates while securing his education.

While in his senior year at Elizabethtown he was invited to become pastor of the First church, Baltimore. Here he worked until 1934.

In 1932 he married Grace Bosserman, of York Springs, Pennsylvania, who was also a graduate of Elizabethtown College.



Brother Wagner entered Crozer Theological Seminary at Chester, Pennsylvania, in 1934 while he was the student pastor of the Wilmington, Delaware, church. He graduated in 1938 with the B.D. degree, also completing an additional year toward the M.Th. degree.



Murray Wagner and Wife

In 1939 the Wagners took up the pastorate of the Pleasant Valley church, Weyers Cave, Virginia, where they remained until 1950. Here he became greatly interested in the rural church program, receiving considerable recognition for his own personal contribution to the rural church movement. Scholarships were awarded to both Brother and Sister Wagner for graduate study in Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. He was named Rural Minister of the Year for Virginia in 1949.

The Wagners came to Southern Ohio in 1950 as pastors of the Troy church, where an extensive building program had just been started. He directed the project to its completion, and the beautiful structure stands as a monument to the achievement and co-operation of pastor and people.

Brother Wagner is active in the local ministerial association, serving as its president several times. Sister Wagner has acted as president of the United Church Women and also as secretary of the Troy Council of Churches.

In extralocal church activities Brother Wagner has given assistance and leadership. Twice he has been on Standing Committee. He has been on the Board of Christian Education of both the Second Virginia and the Southern Ohio District. Now he is on the new District Board of this district. He has taken an active part in camp work in three states.

They have three sons, Murray II, Lowell, and Philip.

The Troy church has made great strides under the able leadership of Murray Wagner, and the city recognizes him as one of its stalwart Christian leaders.

### WILLIAM U. WAGNER

William U. Wagner was born in Darke County, Ohio, on October 21, 1872, to Daniel J. and Catherine Baker Wagner.

He came into the church when sixteen, was elected to the ministry in 1910, and was ordained an elder in 1917. He took some work at Bethany Seminary.

His marriage to Mollie Friedline took place at Hillgrove, Ohio, on February 24, 1895. Three children are living: Ralph, Rullel, and Donald.

Brother Wagner served in the ministry at Alvin, Texas; Alvo, Nebraska; Lennox, Iowa; Lena, Illinois; Mound City, Missouri; and Poplar Grove in this district.

His health failing, he retired following his ministry in the latter church.

### L. JOHN WEAVER

Leon John Weaver, the son of Elder M. J. and Fanny Ritchey Weaver, was born October 8, 1914, at Everett, Pennsylvania. He finished high school in the Johnstown schools in 1932 and entered Elizabethtown College, in Pennsylvania.



After two years he became a teacher in the public schools of Somerset County. He then returned to Elizabethtown College and in 1940 received the B.S. in Education degree. In June 1943 he graduated from Bethany Biblical Seminary, B.D. degree.



L. John Weaver and Wife

On June 6, 1945, he was married to Flora Harsh, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse E. Harsh, of the Maple Springs church, Eglon, West Virginia. They have three children, Margaret Fern, John Edward, and Sara Frances.

His election to the ministry occurred on June 20, 1937, in the Berkey church, Western Pennsylvania, which church also installed him on August 9, 1939. He was ordained an elder by the Eaton church, this district, on May 25, 1947.

Following summer pastorates at South Fork, Northern Virginia, Waynesboro, Southern Pennsylvania, and Bear Creek, this district, he became the full-time pastor of the Eaton church, Southern Ohio, in September 1943. In September 1950 he was called to the Potsdam church, where they now live.

Brother Weaver's first service to the district was as Brethren Service director, followed by membership on the new District Board, as chairman of the Brethren Service Commission. He has also served the district as reader and alternate moderator of district conference and has represented it on Standing Committee.

### ALLEN WEIMER

Allen Weimer was born near West Milton, Ohio, October 22, 1886, to Abram and Catherine Weimer.

His public-school training, secured at Greenville, was followed by night school and part-time study at Bethany Biblical Seminary, Chicago.

He was married at Union City, Ohio, in October of 1907 to Rebecca Kunkle. They had one son, Eugene. After her decease he was married to Mildred Hottle of Troy on December 20, 1929. They have two daughters, Betty and Barbara.

In 1910 he was elected to the ministry by the Greenville church. He has assisted in the ministry at Greenville, Sidney, and Piqua.

In the local church he has worked on the board of religious education, the Sunday-school board, and the music committee, and has been the choir director for many years.

He is employed in Dayton as an office-equipment salesman.

### DANIEL WEIMER

Daniel Weimer was born in Montgomery County, Ohio, June 21, 1897, to J. C. and Alice Weimer.

After attending the public schools he spent one year in Bethany Biblical Seminary.

His marriage to Erta Boomershine took place on April 20, 1918, at Brookville. They have one daughter.

The Brookville church elected him to the ministry in



September of 1920. On July 11, 1934, he was ordained an elder by the Fort McKinley church.

His services in the free ministry have been confined



Daniel Weimer and Wife

largely to Brookville and Fort McKinley. He has been elder of the latter church since 1945.

He is an employee of the post office at Dayton.

### ALLEN WELDY

Allen Weldy is a native of Elkhart County, Indiana; he was born September 30, 1899, to Levi and Alice Weldy.

His training was received in the Wakarusa high school, Manchester College, where he graduated with the class of 1930, and Indiana University, where he secured his Master's degree in 1939.

He married Nina Roose, daughter of Elder and Mrs. Eli Roose, of Indiana, on August 27, 1922. They have three sons, Winfred, Gilbert, and Edgar.

As an educator he served thirty-three years as a public-school teacher, twenty-five of these as a principal in the Elkhart City schools.

In 1951 he was elected to the ministry by the Elkhart church, and later the same year was ordained an elder. He had previously been a deacon and a Sunday-school superintendent and teacher.

In the District of Northern Indiana he was president of Men's Work, was active in its camp program, and was a member of the National Men's Work Council. He represented the district at the Christian education convention at Toronto.

Brother Weldy came into this district in August 1951 to take charge of the work at Flat Creek, Kentucky, where he is now beginning his fourth year of most efficient service.

### R. C. WENGER

Russell C. Wenger, a native of Miami County, the son of John V. and Sarah Cloppert Wenger, was born March 23, 1887. His wife was Ada A. Klepinger. He is a graduate of Manchester College, A.B. degree; Bethany Biblical Seminary, B.D. degree; and the University of Chicago, A.M. degree. He taught in Manchester College, became a minister in 1910 and an elder in 1922, and has served churches in Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan. He is at present at Franklin Grove, Northern Illinois and Wisconsin.

### MILLARD G. WILSON

Millard G. Wilson, whose parents were John W. and Laura McBride Wilson, of Frederick County, Maryland, was born on September 28, 1902.

Completing his high school training in Frederick County, he enrolled in Blue Ridge College, New Windsor, Maryland, and graduated with the class of 1923, B.A. degree. He then spent a year in Bethany Biblical Seminary, after which he



began as pastor of the Brownsville church, Middle Maryland. After three years here he returned to Bethany Seminary, completing his work there in 1929. That fall he went to the Mt. Pleasant church, Western Pennsylvania, but was soon



M. G. Wilson and Wife

called to the Frederick church, Eastern Maryland, where he remained for five years. Then he became pastor of the Cloverdale church, First District of Virginia, where he served for the next eleven years. In 1945 he became pastor of the Martinsburg church, Middle Pennsylvania, and continued here for six years. Then in 1951 he came to Southern Ohio as pastor of the Covington church. He is at this time the very able leader of this congregation.

In 1925 he was married to Rebecca Schwartz, also a graduate of Blue Ridge College. She is the children's work director for Southern Ohio, and had the same responsibility in First Virginia. In Eastern Maryland she was a member of the Women's Work Cabinet.

They are the parents of three children, Mrs. Edgar Flora, Norman, and Kenneth.

Brother Wilson served on the Mission Board in the District of Middle Maryland and also on the same board in First Virginia. He was district secretary for three years in the latter district. He has been a camp leader in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio.

### DAVID D. WINE

David D. Wine, born on April 8, 1839, was a native of Virginia. He came to Southern Ohio in 1862. His wife was Susan Miller of near Dayton, Ohio. They had three sons and five daughters. Moving to Miami County in 1873, he was elected a minister by the Newton (Pleasant Hill) church in 1876 and ordained an elder in 1893.

In 1900 they moved to Covington; here he lived until his decease in 1924, his wife having preceded him in 1913.

As an elder he had oversight of several churches, and was one of those of the free ministry serving the Covington church for a number of years.

### GROVER L. WINE

Grover L. Wine, the son of John H. and Mary E. Miller Wine, was born on January 12, 1886.

Uniting with the Huntington Country Church of the Brethren, Middle Indiana, in 1899, he became a minister in 1906 and an elder in 1919.

His high school work was taken in the Clear Creek Township schools, Huntington County, Indiana. He graduated from Manchester College in 1915 with the B.S.L. degree, and from Juniata College, Pennsylvania, in 1922 with the degree of B.D.

He was married to Mary Stoner on June 1, 1911. They have one daughter, Salome Ruth, wife of Galen B. Ogden, pastor of the La Verne, California, Church of the Brethren. Sister Wine has become a writer of some distinction.

Their pastorates in Southern Ohio have included the



Covington church, 1934-40, and the Greenville church, 1940-46. Other pastorates were: Huntington City, Middle Indiana, 1911-13; the Manchester church, same district, 1915-17; Polo, Northern Illinois and Wisconsin, 1918-20; Fairview, Middle Pennsylvania, 1920-22; Mount Morris, Northern Illinois and Wisconsin, 1924-29; Bridgewater, Virginia, 1929-34; Rossville and Pymont, joint charge, Southern Indiana, 1946-52. They also served an interim pastorate at Phoenix, Arizona, in 1953.

Brother Wine taught some in Mount Morris College and has served on the district boards of several districts, including the Ministerial Board of this district.

The Wines recently retired at Covington, Ohio.



G. L. Wine and Wife



N. B. Wine and Wife

### NORMAN B. WINE

Norman B. Wine was born at Waynesboro, Virginia, on February 2, 1893, the son of Noah and Susan Wine.

He attended Manchester Academy and College, gradu-



ating, A.B. degree, in 1923, and later took his M.A. degree from Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio. Manchester College granted him the honorary LL.D. degree.

Elected to the ministry by the West Dayton church on October 3, 1918, he was ordained an elder by the Bear Creek church, this district, in 1933.

As a part-time pastor he has worked with the Eaton, Bear Creek, and Fort McKinley churches in Southern Ohio. For many years he was elder of the Bear Creek church and is now elder of Mack Memorial.

Brother Wine represented Southern Ohio as a member of the Regional Educational Board, was once the district Sunday-school secretary and the director of religious education, and was also on the Comity Committee of the district.

For many years he was a trustee of Manchester College, representing Southern Ohio; later he became a trustee-at-large and is at present serving in that capacity.

### PAUL E. WINGERD

Paul E. Wingerd was born September 21, 1894, near Clarence, Iowa, the son of Joseph M. and Ozella Zuck Wingerd.

He became a member of the Cedar church, Middle Iowa, in 1910, and a minister in 1918. In December 1927 he was ordained an elder by the Mount Morris, Illinois, church.

He received the B.A. degree from Mount Morris College in 1928.

On June 3, 1919, he married Martha E. Hamer, of Waterloo, Iowa. They served as pastors of the Greenville church from 1930 to 1932.

### FRED E. WOODIE

Fred E. Woodie is the son of Henry J. and Maudie Sheets Woodie, born to them in Ashe County, North Carolina, on September 23, 1891.

On May 30, 1917, he was married to Ollie Pearl Showalter at Boones Mill, Virginia. They have four children.



He was licensed to preach on June 24, 1932, and installed into the ministry in 1933 by the Eversole church. In February of 1952 he was ordained an elder by the Southern District of Virginia.

His ministerial service in this district began in the free ministry in the Eversole church, 1932-41. In the latter year he began a four-year pastorate of the Bethany church, Adams County, assisting also at Strait Creek and Marble Furnace during one year of this period. Leaving this district he moved to Crab Orchard, West Virginia, where he remained until 1947; he then gave up the work for reasons of health. After some recuperation, in 1950 he went to Maple Grove, North Carolina, where he served until March 1953. He is now living near New Carlisle.



Fred Woodie and Wife



George Wright and Wife

### GEORGE W. WRIGHT

George W. Wright was born November 29, 1897, at Fostoria, Ohio, to Sardis N. and Emma Rothacker Wright.



He became a member of the church in 1910. The Uniontown church, Western Pennsylvania, elected him to the ministry in 1930. He was ordained an elder in the Windber church in 1943, during a district conference there.

His church activities were principally as a Sunday-school superintendent at Uniontown for twenty-one years. After his election to the ministry he took charge of the Fairchance congregation. Then he became pastor of the Rummel church in 1942, continuing there until 1950. It was in September of 1950 that he came to Southern Ohio as pastor of the Pittsburg church.

He married Eva I. Byerly, of Fostoria, Ohio, on September 4, 1921. She had attended Manchester College. While in Western Pennsylvania she had served as district president of Women's Work and as secretary-treasurer of the Women's Work organization of the Eastern Region. She was also a camp leader at Camp Harmony. They have five living children: Duane, Myrtle, Marilyn, Myra, and Marjorie.

Brother Wright has twice been a Standing Committeeman and in this district has been a member of the Men's Work Cabinet.

### VAN B. WRIGHT

Van B. Wright was born January 20, 1892, at Berrysville, Highland County, Ohio, to Lewis A. and Nancy Colvin Wright.

His marriage to Nora Mildred Shively took place near Plymouth, Indiana, on June 20, 1919. They have three children, Paul J., Mary Elizabeth, and Donald L.

He was elected to the ministry by the Lexington church on October 11, 1908, and ordained an elder by the Marble Furnace church on January 20, 1919.

His active ministry began in the southern field of this district, in the community in which he grew up; he worked here from 1911 to 1925, under the direction of the Mission Board. In 1925 he became pastor at East Dayton, remaining until 1931. Then they moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, and he was the pastor there until 1936. They served the Twin Falls, Idaho, church, 1936-39, the Fort Wayne, Indiana, church,



1939-48, and the Glendale, California, church, 1948-53; since 1953 they have been directing the work at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

While in this district he served as writing clerk of the district meeting and as a member of the Welfare Board. In other districts he has been a member of Standing Committee, moderator of district conference, and secretary of ministerial affairs. He has held many evangelistic services throughout the Brotherhood.

### OREN S. YOUNT

Oren S. Yount was born in Newberry Township, Miami County, to Solomon M. and Elizabeth Yount, on June 3, 1874.

He attended the Covington high school and Mount Morris College.

His marriage to Daisy A. Diltz took place on November 10, 1896. There were three sons and one daughter born to them.

The Casstown church elected him to the ministry on December 6, 1906. Later the Covington church advanced him to the eldership. He has served in the free ministry in these and other churches in the district. His membership has been in the Covington church since 1922. In his active life he was engaged in newspaper work but is now retired and living in Troy.

## 2. LAITY

### GALEN BARNHART

Galen Barnhart, born August 16, 1914, to Herbert and Clara Funderburg Barnhart, is a deacon in the New Carlisle church.

He is a graduate of the Bethel Township schools, Clark County, of Manchester College, and of Columbia University, M.A. degree. He taught in the public schools for a few years and then turned to farming.

His marriage on June 29, 1941, was to Vila Butterbaugh Royer at Lanark, Illinois. They have four children: Rosemary, Andrew, Eva, and Greta.

Work in the local church has included that of Sunday-school superintendent, teacher, choir director, and chorister, and membership on various boards and committees. For the district he was a member of the Men's Work Council from 1943 to 1948 and its secretary-treasurer for the last four years.

The Barnhart family resides east of New Carlisle.

### HUGH BLOCHER

Hugh Blocher, the son of Samuel and Catherine Glunt Blocher, was born in Darke County, Ohio, on February 12, 1875.

His marriage to Ollie Wagner took place on October 5, 1895. They have four sons, and are now retired from farming.

He is a deacon in the Poplar Grove church, where he has been clerk and trustee for twenty-five years and Sunday-school teacher or superintendent for fifty years, and has served on the ministerial board for a number of years.

His service to this district was as a member of the Brethren Home Board for ten years.



## DON BOWMAN

Don Bowman's parents are Emmert and Helen Bowman. He was born November 20, 1925. He attended the Fairview high school, Dayton, the University of Dayton, the University of Maine, Ohio Northern University, and Ohio State University, receiving the M.S. degree in the last of these.

He was a District CBYF Cabinet member for two years, a Central Region youth fieldworker, and a Brethren Volunteer Service worker here and in Puerto Rico. He was also youth fieldworker for the United Christian Youth Movement, and was a delegate to the Third World Conference of Christian Youth, in 1953, at Travancore, India.

A civil engineer and surveyor, he lives in Dayton.

## GLENN H. BREWER

Glenn H. Brewer, a farmer, is a layman in the Oakland congregation, where he holds the office of deacon and is a member of the ministerial board. He has been both a teacher in the church school and the superintendent. In 1949 he became a member of the Men's Work Cabinet and was elected its secretary-treasurer, which office he now holds.

Brother Brewer married Norma Waggoner of the Oakland congregation; they have two children. They live on a farm near Gettysburg.

## EMERSON W. BRUMBAUGH

Emerson W. Brumbaugh, the son of Elder Enos E. and Daisy Warner Brumbaugh, was born near Union, Montgomery County, Ohio, on February 8, 1899.

He received his high school education at Englewood, his college training at Manchester College, A.B. degree, 1924, and his university work at Wittenberg, A.M. degree, 1931.

His marriage to Miriam K. Gnagey took place at West Milton on June 17, 1924. They have three children, Betty Jane, Lowell Emerson, and Martin G.

After twenty-one years as superintendent of the Staunton Township schools, Miami County, he resigned and went into the restaurant business in Troy.

In the local church, where he is a deacon, he has served on the church board, on the ministerial committee, as treasurer, and as Sunday-school teacher and superintendent.

For the district he was for ten years a member of the Board of Christian Education and its treasurer for six of these years.

### ARTIE CAIN

Artie Cain, a farmer, is a layman in the Eaton church and the superintendent of the church school. Formerly active in the East Dayton church, he is now president of the Eaton men's work.

### VIRGIL CASSEL

Virgil Cassel, of the Greenville church, was born in Darke County on May 6, 1903, son of Philip and Rebecca Cassel.

His education was received in the Bradford schools and Manchester College.

On December 24, 1927, he married Elizabeth Stover. They have two children, Jerry and Terry.

He is the chairman of the building committee of the local church and a deacon. For many years he has been an officer in the Darke County Council of Churches. He is in the general insurance business.

Districtwise he has served as president of Men's Work and has been for some years secretary-treasurer of the Brethren Home Board.

### MARY COPPOCK

Mary Coppock, daughter of Harley M. and Olive Coppock, was born near Tipp City on December 1, 1920.

Graduating from the Tipp City high school she entered



Manchester College, from which she graduated in 1941 with the A.B. degree. She then entered Colorado State College of Education, from which she graduated in 1948 with the M.A. degree.

She served in Brethren Service from 1949 to 1952, in the material aid program in Germany. During 1950-51 she directed work camps in Germany. She also worked with the Kalmuk resettlement committee for six months. In April and May 1952 she represented Brethren Service in a speaking tour on the west coast.

She is now a high school teacher in New Mexico.

### NEVIN L. COPPOCK

Nevin L. Coppock, the son of Elder Harley M. and Olive Coppock, was born at Miami, New Mexico, on January 12, 1914.

He was educated in the Tipp City public schools and has been a member of the Middle District church since 1924.

His wife was Audrey Harnish. They were married on March 29, 1936. There are two children, Patricia and David.

Brother Coppock was the Sunday-school superintendent at Middle District for ten years, and for a similar period director of the youth department. In 1933 he represented Southern Ohio in the interdenominational youth camp at Indianola.

He was a member of the Committee on Reorganization for the district and was elected as one of the first members of the new District Board, in which he acts as chairman of the Commission on Stewardship and Finance. He was a member of the Men's Work Cabinet from 1946 to 1951 and its president from 1947 to 1951. At present he is on the National Council of Men's Work. He was the first layman to represent Southern Ohio on Standing Committee, serving in 1953.

A farmer, he is active in community and county farm organizations and is a member of the Monroe Township school board.

## RAY E. DULL

Ray E. Dull is the son of Vernon S. and Lucille Brenner Dull. He was born January 7, 1927. His education was received in the Brookville high school and Manchester College, where he prepared for teaching.

He first served his church as a member of the District Youth Cabinet. Then he participated in international work camps in Austria during the summer of 1951. Returning, he was trained for Brethren Volunteer Service at New Windsor, following which he returned to Europe on a cattle boat, as an attendant, and worked at Linz, Austria, until September 1953.

While in Austria he met and married Neva Joan Eisenbise, daughter of Elder Forest Eisenbise of Texas. They are now living at Puente, California.

## VERNON S. DULL

Vernon S. Dull, a native of Darke County, Ohio, was the son of Samuel and Emma Shelly Dull, born on November 10, 1895.

He married G. Lucille Brenner of Montgomery County on November 10, 1915. There are four children: Dortha, Rosemma, Ray, and Ralph.

His service in the local church (Brookville) has included that of Sunday-school superintendent, church treasurer, and deacon.

In the district he has served on the Apportionment Committee, the Heifer Project Committee, and the Council of Men's Work. He has also been on the board of the Heifer Project, Incorporated. He and Mrs. Dull accompanied fifty-two heifers to Germany in 1952, visited several Brethren Service projects there and in Austria, and also visited a German girl who had been an exchange student in their home. The daughters also have had exchange students in their homes and both sons have been in volunteer service.



His vocation is farming. He has served his community and county as chairman of CROP (Christian Rural Overseas Program).

### OMY KUNS ERBAUGH

Omy Kuns Erbaugh, wife of Orion Erbaugh, was the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth McMullen Kuns, of Trotwood, Ohio. She was born June 11, 1885.

She graduated from the Trotwood high school and later attended Bethany Seminary for one term.

Her marriage to Orion Erbaugh occurred on January 11, 1911. Their children are Eleanor and Richard.

She was a member of the Trotwood church, where she was a Sunday-school teacher for many years. For some ten years she worked in the district as the children's director.

Sister Erbaugh entered into pastoral work with her husband when he became pastor of the Constance church in 1936. Following his decease, she carried on at Hamilton and Constance for three years as director of the church program and activities and at Constance alone since then.

### RUTH E. ERBAUGH

Ruth E. Erbaugh, daughter of Elder John and Kathryn Mummert Eikenberry, was born September 7, 1913, near Bradford, Ohio.

Her high school work was taken at Bradford and her college training at Manchester College.

She was married to Wilbur Erbaugh on December 24, 1935. They have one son, Bruce.

A public-school teacher, she is also very active in the church at Bradford, where she has been superintendent of the junior department, a teacher in the Sunday school, music director, and a director of daily vacation Bible school.

In the district she has shared in the Women's Work program, being for six years a member of the cabinet and having special responsibilities as Homebuilders director.

## MILDRED M. ETTER

Mildred M. Etter, daughter of Ralph A. and Lydia Miller Etter, was born at Dayton, Ohio, on March 2, 1913.

Following her high school years in the Fairview school, Dayton, she entered Manchester College, Indiana, graduating with the A.B. degree in 1936. She received the M.A. degree in 1942 from Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio.

She taught school at St. Paris, Ohio, from 1936 to 1939 and in the Dayton schools from 1939 to 1952.

Since 1952 she has been working for the General Brotherhood Board, at Elgin, as the administrative assistant to the Christian Education Commission.

In this district she was the director of Children's Work from 1946 until 1952. In her local church she served as the director of music and as superintendent and teacher in the junior department.

## CORA HEESTAND FISHER

Cora Heestand Fisher, wife of Everett R. Fisher, was born to Eli and Salome Heestand on September 12, 1897, at Nappanee, Indiana.

They were married on September 12, 1920, and have three children, Glen, Evelyn, and Esther.

She has been active in both district and ecumenical work through the years. She was president of Women's Work in both Southern Indiana and Southern Ohio and also president of Women's Work of the Central Region as well as of the National Council of Women's Work.

While in this state she was a member of the Ohio United Council of Women, of the assembly of the Ohio Council of Churches, and of the national board of managers of the United Church Women.

The Fishers reside in Huntington, Indiana, serving as pastors of the church there.



## JOE B. FLORA

Joe B. Flora was born in Miami County, Ohio, on June 30, 1905, to Benjamin F. and Laura Katherine Flora.

His high school work was completed in the Bethel Township schools, Miami County, after which he entered Ohio State University, where he graduated with the B.Sc. degree.

He was married in the Salem church on August 12, 1928, to Mildred Wenger. They have three children, Reis Wenger, Curtis Benjamin, and Susan Marie.

A deacon in the Trotwood church, he has served also as a teacher and as superintendent in the Sunday school, as church treasurer and church clerk, and as a member of the finance committee and of the planning committee for the remodeled church.

For the district he has been the Brotherhood Fund representative since April 1951 and was the district's second lay delegate on Standing Committee in 1954.

He has been the general manager of the Trotwood Trailers since 1932.

## PHARES D. AND FANNIE FOURMAN

Phares D. and Fannie Fourman became man and wife at Potsdam, Ohio, on December 19, 1907. They have four children living: Dale, Galen, Edith, and John.

Brother Fourman was born July 25, 1897, to John and Emma Niswonger Fourman. Sister Fourman is the daughter of Samuel and Lydia Dohner Christian.

Brother Fourman is a deacon in the local church. He is retired, having been in the grocery business prior to being called to direct the work at the Greenville Home. He is a leader in the 4-H Club work of Darke County.

Their service to the district has consisted of the management of Camp Sugar Grove from 1946 to 1949 and two periods as superintendent and matron of the Brethren Home at Greenville. The first was for ten years, 1936 to 1946; the second for over four years, 1949 to 1953.

## RUTH FUNDERBURG

Ruth Funderburg comes from Clark County, the daughter of Cyrus and Emma Funderburg. She was born December 10, 1912.

Her education was received in the North Hampton schools and Manchester College. A member of the Donnels Creek church, she has been superintendent of the primary department, teacher, and chorister and is now the superintendent of the junior and intermediate department. She has also directed the daily vacation Bible school.

In district work she has been a member of the Children's Work Cabinet for several years, a member of the Board of Christian Education, and a camp leader.

She teaches in the elementary school at North Hampton.

## CHESTER J. GEORGE

Chester J. George was an active member of the Oakland church at the time of his decease but had grown up in the Lower Miami congregation.

Educated at Manchester College, Miami University, and Ohio State University, he followed the profession of teaching vocational agriculture in Darke and Miami counties. He married Mildred Kline in 1922.

In the district he was an early promoter of Men's Work and became a member of the District Council of Men's Work as well as of the National Council. He gave much time to the promotion of "heifers for relief" and to the development of a church at Turkey Creek, Kentucky. He died in 1948 in his fiftieth year.

## J. PAUL AND VERDA GIBBEL

J. Paul Gibbel, the son of Abram and Emma B. Gibbel, was born March 29, 1896, at Hemet, California.

He finished his high school training at Virden, Illinois, and graduated with an A.B. degree from Mount Morris College,



Illinois, in 1920. In 1926 he graduated from the School of Medicine, University of Illinois.

Verda E. Hershberger became his wife on June 9, 1926, at Lanark, Illinois. They have three children, Kathleen, Donald, and Phyllis. Their home is at Greenville.

Dr. Gibbel has been active in the Rural Life Association and is a member of the board of this organization.

Verda Gibbel, of Darke County, is the daughter of Jonas and Fannie Hershberger, of Grantsville, Maryland; she was born January 22, 1897.

She took her high school work at Waterloo, Iowa, and graduated from Mount Morris College in 1921, A.B. degree. In 1919-20 she attended Bethany Seminary.

She has served her local church on various boards and committees. Her present service to the district is that of director of missions for Women's Work.

### S. C. GNAGEY

S. C. Gnagey, a native of Maryland, is a layman in the Pitsburg church. After the family came to West Milton in 1905 he became a charter member of the local church and later became the Sunday-school superintendent. He attended Juniata College, Pennsylvania.

For a total of seventeen years he was a trustee of the Brethren Home at Greenville, most of the time being secretary of the board.

He married Merle Deeter, of Covington, Ohio. In 1934 they became residents of Arcanum, Ohio, where he is the vice-president of the local bank.

The Pitsburg church made him a deacon in 1936.

### W. K. GROFF

W. K. Groff was born at Oxford, Ohio, on July 10, 1913, to Jonas and Gertrude Groff.

He completed high school at New Lebanon and entered

Manchester College, graduating, B.S. degree, in 1935. Later he took the M.A. degree at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

On June 6, 1936, he was married to Lucille Noffsinger, at the Lower Miami church. They and their three children, Kay, Jennie, and Jill, live near Vandalia.

He is a teacher in the Dayton city schools and also a licensed real-estate salesman.

In the local church, Mack Memorial, where he is a deacon, he has been a member of the trustee board, the building committee, and the ministerial board.

His service to the district comprises two terms on the Historical Committee which was responsible for the compilation of the material and the publication of this volume.

### HARVEY GRISSE

Harvey Grisso, the son of Elias and Elizabeth Grisso, of near North Hampton, Ohio, was born February 1, 1902.

His education was obtained in the common schools and in a night school of engineering. He was an auto mechanic for several years and then became a farmer.

Marie Barnhart became his wife on June 22, 1927. They have one daughter, Evelyn. They are members of the Springfield church, where he is a deacon.

In his local church Brother Grisso is chairman of the deacon board, of the church cabinet, and of the ministerial board. He was a member of the building committee when the church was remodeled in 1953. He is presently the secretary of Men's Work for the district.

He has delivered relief goods from his community to New Windsor and in December 1945 went with a relief cargo of horses and cattle to Danzig, Poland.

### HARRY HART

Harry Hart comes from Miami County, Ohio, the son of Clarence E. and Myrtle McMaken Hart.



He married Harriet M. Snyder on October 21, 1915. They have four children: Wilma, Lowell, Edwin, and Marvin.

Representing the local church, Piqua, he has been a delegate to Annual Conference. He is on the building committee and the finance board. For the county he has acted as the Christian Rural Overseas Program chairman.

The Harts served the district as superintendent and matron of the Brethren Home at Greenville from 1946 to 1949.

### VINNA HELSTERN

Vinna Helstern is the daughter of Harvey and Rhoda Bowers, of Wakarusa, Indiana. She was born May 29, 1906.

After graduating from high school at Wakarusa she spent two years in Manchester College.

She married Russell F. Helstern on April 16, 1927, at Wakarusa. They have four daughters.

Her service in the district has been on the Women's Work Cabinet, for a while as director of the Aid Society, and more recently on the District Board as a member of the Brethren Service Commission. She assisted in collecting the data for the account of Women's Work in this volume.

### ROBERT L. HONEYMAN

Robert L. Honeyman was born near Brookville on September 13, 1903, the son of Enos and Etie Bowman Honeyman.

Since coming into the church in 1923, he has attended the Salem, Brookville, and Potsdam churches, the last-named for the last twenty-five years.

His marriage to Dorothy Mildred Myers took place on March 8, 1925. They have five children: Robert, Jr., Betty Lou, Ned E., Karen Faith, and Benny Foster.

Brother Honeyman spent three months of the winter of 1945-46 with a relief shipment to Greece—horses, mules, cattle, and fertilizer. He sponsored a relief sale for Miami County, held at the Troy fairgrounds, which netted over \$15,000 for relief abroad.

## ORA L. HOOVER

Ora L. Hoover came from Garrett, Indiana, where he was born on August 11, 1891, to Elder David E. and Rozella Haynes Hoover.

His high school work was completed at Garrett; he then entered Manchester College, from which he graduated in 1916. After teaching for a few years in Manchester College, he entered Ohio State University, continuing until he secured the Ph.D. degree in chemistry. He taught chemistry here for some time, later becoming a research chemist for the Rockefeller Foundation Psychopathic Hospital at the State University of Iowa.

Brother Hoover was married to Alice Marie Kindell on September 20, 1924, at North Manchester, Indiana. They have one son, Keith Kindell, of Wright College, Chicago.

Upon the death of his wife's father Brother Hoover came to Covington to take over the Sugar Grove Mills, in which business he is still engaged.

His service to the district has included membership on the Mission Board, as its treasurer for several years. At present he is the treasurer of the newly organized District Board. In the local church he has served in several capacities: as a member of the ministerial board, as a Sunday-school teacher and superintendent, and as church clerk.

## ROSCOE INMAN

Roscoe Inman of Bradford, Ohio, is the son of Isaac and Mary Ellen Frey Inman. He grew up in the vicinity of Bradford. On July 22, 1911, he married Ivy E. Bookwalter. They have four children living.

In the local church he has been a trustee and a member of both the pastoral board and the finance board.

A builder by trade, he has been used by the church a great deal in this capacity. He supervised the construction of the Turkey Creek church, Kentucky. Later he had charge of the erecting of a parsonage there. The Brethren Service Commission asked him to direct the construction of the Kassel



House, Germany, a project that took nearly two years—May 1952 to February 1954.

The District Board of Southern Ohio asked him, upon his return, to supervise the construction of the new district parsonage at West Milton, which was dedicated November 7, 1954. He is also directing the remodeling of the Piqua church, soon to be completed.

### NAOMI V. KINSEL

Naomi V. Kinsel, the daughter of Elder Clarence and Clara Horning Erbaugh, was born in Perry Township, Montgomery County, on February 20, 1914.

She completed her high school work at the Dixie high school, near New Lebanon, and entered Manchester College, North Manchester, Indiana, completing the normal course in 1937. She graduated from the Training School of Bethany Biblical Seminary in 1946. Before her marriage she was a public-school teacher.

Her marriage to Paul W. Kinsel occurred on June 7, 1941. They have three children, Barbara Ann, Susan Elizabeth, and John Daniel.

She has been a children's work director in the local church, a member of the District Children's Cabinet, and a district director of Children's Work. In Eastern Maryland she was also the director of Children's Work. In Southern Ohio she has served on the Youth Cabinet, as its president for one year, and has also shared in the district camping program as a leader and a director at Camp Sugar Grove.

### MRS. MOYNE LANDIS

Mrs. Moyne Landis was born at Liberty Mills, Indiana, on June 4, 1888, to M. K. and Ida Martin.

She finished high school at North Manchester, Indiana, and took further training in the Training School of Bethany Biblical Seminary.

Her marriage to Moyne Landis took place on May 14, 1911, at North Manchester. They have one son and two daughters living.

In Indiana she was the president of the Middle Indiana District Aid Society, and in Southern Ohio she has been the president of Women's Work. She represented the Church of the Brethren on the assembly of the Ohio Council of Churches and was a member of the executive committee of the Ohio Council of Church Women.

### IRA MIKESELL

Ira Mikesell, a native of Darke County, Ohio, was reared in the Pleasant Valley congregation. His parents were Herbert and Ollie Mote Mikesell. He was born June 6, 1904.

He has served in various capacities in the local church, as superintendent of the Sunday school and as teacher, and on the finance and ministerial boards and the committee on men's work.

His residence was in the Beech Grove congregation from 1950 to 1953. The Union City congregation elected him a deacon in 1946.

Lovelle Hindsley became his wife on December 27, 1925. She passed away February 2, 1931. He was married to Zelma Thornburg on December 12, 1936; they have two children, Robert Lee and Linda Sue.

On September 1, 1953, the Mikesells were called to be superintendent and matron of the Brethren Home; they are living and working there at the present time.

### LEVI MINNICH

Levi Minnich was born to Abraham and Elizabeth Swinger Minnich on March 19, 1862, in Franklin Township, Darke County, Ohio.

On May 24, 1888, he married Laura E. Netzley, of Naperville, Illinois. Born to them were Beulah (Mrs. T. S. Eiken-



berry), H. Spenser, and Ruth (Mrs. Quinter Neher). His companion died in 1909. In 1912 he was united in marriage to Susie Forney, of California.

Brother Minnich was educated in the local schools, and in Ohio Normal University, Ada, Ohio. He taught school for ten years; then he turned to farming.

Uniting with the church in 1890, he was superintendent of the Painter Creek Sunday school for more than twenty years, president of the Darke County Sunday-school Association for several years, a member of the District Mission Board for three terms of five years each, a member of the General Sunday School Board for several years, and long a trustee of Manchester College. He was a civic leader in his own community and county, a strong advocate of prohibition, and once a candidate for the state legislature.

He passed away on March 31, 1948. His second wife, Susie Minnich, followed him in death on June 18, 1953.

### ROBERT NOFFSINGER

Robert Noffsinger, the son of Elder and Sister Jesse Noffsinger, is a layman in the Mack Memorial church. His wife was Alma Studebaker of New Carlisle. They live near Vandalia, Ohio.

A Manchester graduate, A.B. degree, he took his Master's degree at Wittenberg. He has been taking additional work at the University of Cincinnati.

His activities in the district have included: B.Y.P.D. president, 1933-34; leader in the first Mexican work camp; leader of youth camps; and treasurer and manager of the Common Bond Credit Union at the present time.

### JOHN E. OLIVER

John E. Oliver, of the Greenville church, is the son of George and Amy Oliver, born November 8, 1901.

He was educated in the local high school, Manchester

College, A.B. 1931, and Miami University, M.A. 1941. He is a teacher in the Greenville high school.

His marriage to Mary M. Miller took place on June 10, 1926. They have three children, Janis, Carol, and James.

A deacon in the local church, he has served also as Sunday-school teacher and treasurer of the building committee.

For the district, as secretary of the Historical Committee responsible for this volume, he has rendered most valuable service.

### DARYL M. PARKER

Daryl McCoid Parker was born March 17, 1904, in Whittier, California, to Harry C. and Nina McCoid Parker, and grew up on a farm. He graduated from the Glendale union high school in 1922, and from Occidental College at Los Angeles in 1926. Following this he taught school and supervised playgrounds for two years. During this time he was active in the work of the Glendale Presbyterian church, of which he was a member.

His purpose to become a medical missionary brought him to Chicago. Here he graduated from Northwestern University Medical School, interned at Evanston General Hospital, and took a special eye course at the university clinics. Later, on his first furlough from China, he took postgraduate work in surgery at the University of Pennsylvania and at the Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis.

While in training in Chicago, he was active in the work of the Fourth Presbyterian church, the medical school Y.M.C.A., and the Interdenominational Student Volunteer Movement. It was in this work that he met and married Martha Neiderhiser in June 1932. Their first year was spent in Chicago, where they attended the First Church of the Brethren. It was during this time that he became a member of the church.

Each had been preparing for service on the mission field before they met. Now they believed that God would guide them as to where and when they could serve together. And it was the need for medical workers in our North China mission



field that led them to answer that call. They were dedicated and sent out by the Annual Conference at Hershey, Pennsylvania, in 1933. After a year in language study in Peking they were stationed in Shansi, North China, where Dr. Parker worked in the three Brethren hospitals in Ping Ting, Show Yang, and Liao Chow.

The Parkers' main emphasis in their medical mission work was to train Christian Chinese doctors and nurses to work with their own people and assume responsibility for the hospitals and training schools in China.

In 1942, while Dr. Parker was at the Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, he was asked to help train the first China unit of civilian public service men then preparing at Camp Lagro, Indiana, to serve in unoccupied China. When this unit was refused passports by the State Department, it was reorganized and the Parkers went with the group to Puerto Rico to begin the Castañer project. Their work was to build a twenty-five-bed hospital, take over government clinics that had been abandoned, and train civilian public service assignees and Puerto Ricans to do the work of doctors, nurses, and technicians. In 1944 the Parkers again tried to return to China, and when passports were refused they were loaned to the Presbyterian Hospital in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where Dr. Parker served as medical director and resident surgeon.

In 1946 the Parkers finally sailed to China. Only Dr. Parker, however, got back into Shansi, and in just a few months our mission field was taken over by the advancing communist armies. He and Mary Schaeffer were held for a short time, then escorted by foot and by donkey out to the Nationalist lines. From there they finally reached Peking, where Dr. Parker joined Mrs. Parker in work at the Methodist Hospital. From Peking they were sent to Central China, and, after six months, to the new field in Szechwan, West China, where the Brethren were co-operating with the Methodists. But in June 1949, because of the constant communist advance, the Parkers returned to the States.

In August 1949 they moved to Hollansburg, Ohio, in rural medical practice. They joined the Beech Grove Church of the Brethren, where Dr. Parker has served as Sunday-school

teacher and on the missions, placement, and ministerial committees. He also has been on the board of the Rural Life Association, Richmond, Indiana, on the advisory board of the Rural Life Emphasis Program at Manchester College, and on the National Committee of Religion and Rural Life in Chicago.

### MARTHA NEIDERHISER PARKER

Martha Neiderhiser Parker was born January 31, 1907, on a farm near Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania, to Norman and Keturah Neiderhiser.

It was in the Mt. Pleasant community that she began her church work. She started teaching a Sunday-school class at the age of eighteen. She was president of the local B.Y.P.D., was a member of the seventh circuit cabinet of the B.Y.P.D. of Western Pennsylvania, and also was youth director of the Interdenominational Sabbath School Association of her district in Westmoreland County. Having decided that she wanted to be a missionary, she took Bible correspondence courses from Juniata College while working at home.

She entered the Nurses' Training School of the Cook County Hospital, in Chicago, and graduated in 1931. After working a few months as obstetrical supervisor in the Bethany Hospital, she attended Bethany Seminary for one year. Later, during furlough from the mission field, she also attended the University of Pennsylvania and Manchester College. During her nurses' training she was active in Student Volunteer work and it was in this work that she met Daryl Parker, a medical student at Northwestern University. She and Dr. Parker were married on June 27, 1932.

The Parkers were dedicated to missionary service at the Annual Conference at Hershey, Pennsylvania, in 1933 and sailed that same summer for China.

Early in their first term in China, they had two sons, Donald and Robert, both born in Peking. All during their years of mission service, except while the boys were small, Mrs. Parker worked as a nurse in the mission hospitals, most of



the time as operating-room and delivery-room nurse and instructor.

The Parkers came to Southern Ohio in August 1949. Besides caring for her family, Mrs. Parker acted as office nurse during their first three years in Hollansburg. The Parkers also had a part in the refugee and student exchange programs. They had in their home Dr. Ludmila Mellups from Latvia for five months, Drs. Michael and Sylvia Mathews from Yugoslavia for six weeks, and a German exchange student for one year. In January 1953 Jean Ann, age six, and Carol Rae, age four, came to live with them. In December 1953 adoption was completed with a ceremony at the Beech Grove church, presided over by Brother Dolar Ritchey.

Since coming to Southern Ohio, Martha Parker has shared in the work of the Beech Grove church as choir director, junior-high Sunday-school teacher, director of family life, director of missions, and librarian. In the district she has acted as dean of several junior high camps at Sugar Grove, and as missions director in the Women's Work.

### IVAN PATTERSON

Ivan Patterson, the son of Carl and Effie Patterson, was born in Montgomery County on February 7, 1927.

After attending the Madison Township high school he spent one year at Manchester College.

On October 21, 1950, he was married to Clara C. Waser, of York, Pennsylvania. They have two children, Carol Ann and Daniel Lee.

He was an attendant on a cattle boat carrying relief heifers to Europe and later spent one and one-half year in a China Tractor Unit. In district work he has been on the CBYF Cabinet, five years as a youth and two years as adult adviser. For four years he served on the Regional CBYF Cabinet.

A plumbing contractor, he made major contributions to the construction of the district parsonage.

## RAY M. PETERSIME

Ray M. Petersime is one of our well-known laymen, a member of the Oakland church. He was born in 1899. His father, Ira Petersime, was the founder of the Petersime Incubator Company at Gettysburg, Ohio.

He is a trustee of Manchester College and of Bethany Hospital and is a member of the National Council of Men's Work.

Brother Petersime was a member of the District Mission Board for ten years and was formerly on the District Apportionment Committee. As chairman of the Displaced Persons Committee he assisted in locating hundreds of refugees in Ohio.

Locally he served his church as teacher and superintendent of the church school, and as a trustee for the congregation.

Beyond the district he has shared in the work of the International Council of Religious Education, for some time as chairman and then as treasurer of the laymen's section. Since 1952 he has been on the Joint Committee on Evangelism of the National Council of Churches. He has also been a member of the council of the Christian Rural Overseas Program (CROP). Besides, he has been a member of Church World Service for Ohio, of the Prohibition Committee of the state, and of the executive board of the Ohio Council of Churches.

In his home county, Darke, he has also been active and a leader in co-operative Christian movements such as leadership training schools and the Gideon camp.

His wife was Bernice Bigler. They and their four children live in Gettysburg.

## RAY A. PORTER

Ray A. Porter, the son of Elder S. E. and Emma Zerbe Porter, of Bradford, was born February 10, 1896.

He completed his high school education in the Bradford schools and his normal work in Ohio University, and then taught school for four years. Then he became a bookkeeper



for the First National Bank of Bradford; in 1922 he associated himself with the Piqua National Bank and Trust Company, of which he is now cashier and trust officer.

His marriage to Frances Deeter of West Milton took place on June 16, 1921. She had been a schoolteacher. They have three children: Ray, Jr., Lois Elaine, and Gene Paul.

Brother Porter is a deacon in the Piqua church and one of the key charter members of that congregation. He has worked in many official capacities in the church there, among them treasurer, Sunday-school superintendent, and teacher. For years he was actively associated with the Miami County Council of Churches.

In the district he served two terms on the Apportionment Committee and four years on the Auditing Committee. He spent ten years on the Mission Board, 1940 to 1949 inclusive, acting as secretary-treasurer during the entire time.

### NORA EDNA ROBINSON

Nora Edna Robinson, daughter of Granville and Malinda Minnich, was born March 19, 1892, in Darke County, Ohio. She graduated from the Franklin Township schools and attended Bethany Biblical Training School. On July 16, 1912, she was united in marriage to J. A. Robinson. They have two sons: Dr. Paul Minnich Robinson, president of Bethany Biblical Seminary, and Donald Lee, pastor of the Wilmington, Delaware, Church of the Brethren.

For a number of years she was the secretary-treasurer of the District Aid Society of Southern Ohio. She also served as secretary-treasurer of the Women's Work of Western Pennsylvania and later as secretary-treasurer of the Women's Work of the Eastern Region.

Her major local church activity has been in the children's department of the Sunday school, in which she has been a teacher, superintendent, and children's director in the Pleasant Hill, Ohio, church, in the Walnut Grove congregation, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and now in the Ephrata, Pennsylvania, congregation.

## HARRY C. ROYER

Harry C. Royer was born near New Madison, Ohio, on December 17, 1889, the youngest son of Samuel and Mary Hebb Royer. His training included graduation from high school and from the Richmond Business College, Richmond, Indiana. He married Ida Robins. They have one daughter and two sons.

Brother Royer is a deacon in the Bradford church and has served the district several times on the Auditing Committee, as secretary-treasurer of Men's Work and for two terms of five years each on the Brethren Home Board as its secretary-treasurer.

He united with the Harris Creek church in 1911 and was a charter member of the Bradford church.

His residence is in Bradford, where he is the assistant cashier of the local bank and a member of the board of directors.

## HOMER ROYER

Homer Royer is a native of Darke County, born October 16, 1906, to William and Ida Eikenberry Royer.

His education was received in the Monroe Township schools of Darke County; Manchester College, A.B. degree, 1929; and Ohio State University, M.A. degree, 1938.

He married Sarah A. Delk at Pitsburg, Ohio, on December 22, 1929. They have three children, Beth, David, and Ann.

Brother Royer was a member of the first District Youth Cabinet and has for some ten years been a member of the Historical Committee; in this latter capacity he shared in gathering the data and planning for this volume. He has also been an instructor at and a director of Camp Sugar Grove.

A deacon in the Trotwood church, he has also been the superintendent of the Sunday school, the adult adviser for the youth department, the chairman of the official board, and the assistant moderator of the congregation. He serves the Church Federation of Greater Dayton as chairman of its department of Christian education.



Professionally he is an educator, being at present assistant superintendent of the Dayton public schools in administration and personnel.

### ETOILE SARGENT

Etoile Sargent, of Bradford, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Sargent. She was trained in the Bradford schools, Manchester Academy, and Manchester College. Her vocation is teaching.

She has served on the District Children's Cabinet, as Women's Work secretary-treasurer for over six years, in junior camp work for some fifteen years, and as editor of the *Southern Ohio Herald* from 1952 through 1954. In local church work she has been the Sunday-school superintendent, a member of the ministerial board and the finance board, and the church treasurer for about eighteen years.

### CHARLES C. STEBBINS

Charles C. Stebbins, of Montgomery County, the Lower Miami church, was born August 26, 1868, to John H. and Sarah Keen Stebbins.

He attended Beck Commercial College, Dayton, and Ohio Northern University, Ada, Ohio.

On March 3, 1898, he married Luella M. Shew of Dayton. They became the parents of four children, three of whom are living.

For nineteen years he taught school in Montgomery County. Then he turned to farming. He served on the local school board for about twelve years.

In the local church activities, he was a Sunday-school teacher, Sunday-school superintendent, and a deacon. Deeply interested in the work of the district, he was a member of the Apportionment Committee and was the district treasurer for a number of years.

His death occurred in 1942.

## B. F. STUDEBAKER

B. F. Studebaker was born July 3, 1878, in Bethel Township, Miami County, to Henry and Catherine Studebaker. He attended the schools in this township, finishing his high school work here.

On April 7, 1904, he married Bessie Elizabeth Wenger. They have four children: Paul, Stanley, Mary K., and Dale.

Previous to their marriage he taught school for six years; then he turned to farming, which he has since followed.

He was elected a deacon by the West Milton church in 1925 and is at present the chairman of the deacon board there. He was made Sunday-school superintendent at the age of eighteen and continued in this capacity for several years. For over fifty years he taught in the local Sunday school. He has also been a member of various committees in the local church.

For five consecutive terms, a total of twenty-five years, he was a member of the Brethren Home Board, most of this time as president or secretary of the board. He was also a member of the General Mission Board for five years, 1933-37, was the Brotherhood Fund representative for the district for several years, and also served on the Men's Work Council. In 1954 he and his wife made a tour of Europe. They reside on their farm on State Route 48, south of West Milton.

## EMMERT STUDEBAKER

Emmert Studebaker, a layman of the West Charleston church, is the son of Charles A. and Louisa Studebaker, born to them near Tipp City on September 7, 1905.

He completed his high school work at Tipp City and took further training at Manchester College and Ohio State University.

His marriage on June 14, 1933, at Tiffin, Ohio, was to Jane Mae Herring. They have two daughters, Barbara Jo and Sonia Jean.

He is a manufacturer, being president of the Process Equipment Company, of near Tipp City.



Besides being a deacon and an active worker in the West Charleston church Brother Studebaker has served the district since 1952 as a member of the Brethren Home Board and helped plan and construct the new addition there. He made a trip to Europe with a boatload of horses in 1945, witnessing the devastation wrought by the second world war in Poland.

### GUY E. STUDEBAKER

Guy E. Studebaker's parents were Isaac and Mary Snell Studebaker. He was born in Miami County on February 3, 1887.

He attended the public schools of Ohio and North Dakota.

His marriage on February 26, 1908, was to Ella Funderburg, of New Carlisle, Ohio. They had four children. They are Alma (Mrs. Robert Noffsinger), Gerald, Eldon, and Roberta (Mrs. Walter Dale Eby).

Brother Studebaker was a member of the New Carlisle church, where he was a deacon, and where he served as Sunday-school superintendent and teacher for many years and as church secretary for about twenty-five years.

His service in the district was on the Apportionment Committee for some years and later as a member of the Mission Board.

As a farmer he was well known as an extensive potato raiser.

His death occurred on March 15, 1949.

### ROY STUDEBAKER

Roy Studebaker, son of Samuel F. and Anna May Harnish Studebaker, was born near Tipp City, Ohio, on June 24, 1883. He completed high school and took two years of college at Juniata College, Pennsylvania.

He married Orpha H. Werking at New Enterprise, Pennsylvania, on December 18, 1907. They have six children: Ruth, Miriam, Philip, Lois, Sara, and Mary.

In the local church he was long the Sunday-school superintendent and served on the ministerial and finance boards.

His service to the district was rendered as a member of the Brethren Home Board for two terms. He lives west of New Carlisle, where he is engaged in farming.

### SAMUEL F. STUDEBAKER

Samuel F. Studebaker was born near West Charleston, Ohio, on November 1, 1859, to Samuel S. and Nancy Frantz Studebaker.

His first wife was Anna May Harnish, whom he married on March 30, 1882. After her decease, December 22, 1889, he married Anna Mary Shroyer on February 18, 1891. There were three children born from the first marriage, Roy, Verda, and Paul, and two from the second, Warren and Rieber.

He was a member of the Hickory Grove, the West Charleston, and then the New Carlisle church. As a layman he taught in the Sunday school and was its superintendent; he was a member of the ministerial committee and was the treasurer of the church for many years.

He was on the Brethren Home Board from 1920 to 1937. His death occurred on November 3, 1936.

### FRED TEACH

Fred Teach is a native of Clark County, born June 5, 1899, to David and Clara Drescher Teach.

He was married to Bessie E. Lavy on January 29, 1920. They have three daughters, Mary, Betty, and Dorothy.

A farmer, Brother Teach is a deacon in the Donnels Creek church. His interest in the Heifer Project has been outstanding, both in the local church and generally. He gave heifers himself and raised several for others to contribute to the project. In August 1953 he accompanied a boatload of heifers to Germany and while there visited several of the refugee centers and work camps.



He has taken a great deal of interest in the Kentucky work and has made many trips with his truck carrying supplies to this field.

Locally he served on the Christian Rural Overseas Program committee several times. He sponsored a displaced family in 1950, giving lodging and employment.

### FRANKLIN WALLICK

Franklin Wallick was born at Des Moines, Iowa, on October 2, 1923, to Walter and Kathryn Blocher Wallick.

He completed high school work at the Oakwood high school, Oakwood, and attended the University of Chicago and Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio.

On August 7, 1951, he was married to Ruth M. Brewer, at Cleveland, Ohio. They have a daughter, Susan.

In 1946-47 he was with the U.N.R.R.A.-Brethren Service unit in China and Manchuria. He remained in China as an instructor in Yenching University and a news correspondent for another year.

For a while he was the publicist for the C. I. O. United Auto Workers and has been identified with the National Religion and Labor Foundation. He is at present the research director in the Washington office of Congressman Henry Reuss of Wisconsin.

### DAN WEST

Dan West was born to Landon and Barbara Landis West, in Preble County, Ohio, on December 31, 1893.

He completed his high school studies at Pleasant Hill, Ohio, and took some work at Bethany Bible School and Lewis Institute, Chicago; entering Manchester College, Indiana, he graduated with the A.B. degree in 1917. Additional studies were taken at Cornell, Columbia, Chicago, and Harvard universities.

On October 8, 1932, he married Lucille Sherck, of Middle-

bury, Indiana. She graduated from Manchester College in 1930; later she taught school. She has been a member of the National Council of Women's Work. They have five children: Joel D., Janet Lea, Philip, Lawrence, and Steven.

As a teacher he spent four years in the high school at Pleasant Hill, one at Englewood, and five at Trotwood. He also taught one year in the Hammond, Indiana, schools.

Brother West's service in youth work began in 1922, in youth camps in 1924, and as national director of youth in 1930. He had been on the Board of Religious Education before becoming youth director. In 1947 he became director of leadership training for the Brethren Service Commission, and was one of the founders of Brethren Volunteer Service.

He was in the United States Army, 1918-19, where "I became more of a conscientious objector." It was later as a relief worker in Spain that he conceived the movement that became the Heifer Project, Inc.

Elsewhere his promotion of Camp Sugar Grove has been noted. He has had part in establishing or promoting other camps in the Brotherhood. Since 1940 he has worked with the Brethren Service Committee and since 1941 on the Heifer Project. He conducted a European seminar in 1928, and an emergency peace campaign, 1936-37.

*The Coming Brotherhood*, 1938, and *Brethren Community Service*, 1942, are booklets published by him. He has also written many articles for our denominational publications.

The Wests reside near Goshen, Indiana.

### JOSEPH M. WISE

Joseph M. Wise was born near Bradford, Ohio, December 19, 1889, to Moses B. and Anna Miller Wise.

He attended the public schools of Darke County.

On April 25, 1914, he married Mary C. Fulker, at Troy, Ohio. They became the parents of two sons, Joseph F. and James F. His wife died on August 3, 1932. Later he married Mrs. Cora M. Foster at Dayton, Ohio. A daughter, Jane Ann, was born to them.



Brother Wise has been an active layman in the Harris Creek, Covington, and Piqua churches. He was a charter member of the latter church and since its organization has served in the capacity of Sunday-school superintendent, deacon, church treasurer, teacher, and chairman of the building committee.

He was one of the early promoters of Men's Work in the district, has been on the Welfare Board, and for eighteen years has been the director of adult work. For years he has been the business manager of the *Southern Ohio Herald*.

He taught school for seven years. Later he became an employee of the United States mail service, retiring recently after more than thirty-five years in this work.

The Wise family resides in Piqua.

### ELDEN YOHE

Elden Yohe, son of Harry B. and Lydia Yohe, was born near Arcanum. After finishing high school at Pitsburg, Darke County, Ohio, he spent one year at Manchester College; entering Ohio State University, Columbus, he graduated with the B.Sc. in Agriculture.

He married Ermajean Hollar, at Nappanee, Indiana, on March 17, 1946. They have three sons and one daughter.

It was his privilege to accompany the first planeload of heifers to fly from the United States in 1949, taking them to Venezuela. In the district he was secretary of the Heifer Project Committee for two years.

He owns and operates grain elevators at Wabash and Landess, Indiana, at the present time.

### LEVI ZUMBRUM

Levi Zumbrum was born January 31, 1872, to Ezra and Susan Neff Zumbrum in Noble County, Indiana.

He married Dona Robbins of Miami County, Ohio, on May 14, 1898. They have two children.

In the Brookville church, where he lives, he has been active as a Sunday-school teacher and a member of the building committee of the church.

In the district Brother Zumbrum was a member of the Brethren Home Board for twenty-five years.

He is in the hardware and implement business at Brookville.



## PART ONE

### Outreach





## 1. INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

One time Dr. T. Z. Koo, international Christian leader, said: "If I ever saw God walking the streets in human flesh, I saw him in the missionary. When you gave us Christ, you gave us something that nothing can replace."

Southern Ohio has, across the years, sent out sons and daughters to the far-flung frontiers of Christian service. They have traveled hot, dusty highways and byways, met icy winds and snows of mountains, been on bandit-infested roads, been in perils of rivers, of war, of robbers, of infectious diseases, of prisons, and seen fellow workers and children succumb to fatal illnesses. Yet they kept the faith and courage of Paul—"in all things we are more than conquerors," and "nothing can separate us from the love of God . . ."—in order to bring the message and glory of Christ to peoples yearning for a sustaining hope. These messengers of the faith served in many ways to bring Christ to the people, through preaching, teaching, healing, agriculture, public health, and Christian home life. It would be impossible to give statistics concerning the work of these brave frontiersmen who worked with quiet dynamic to sow the seeds of goodwill, peace, and hope among the people whom they served.

This magnificent work, which began so long ago and continues today, would not have been possible without the support of thousands of unnamed saints of our district and other districts who gave of their means, their prayers, and their sympathy. It continues as an ongoing pageant of triumphant faith. By planting churches in other countries, these ambassadors of goodwill will have a far more lasting influence in preserving the peace of the world than all the armies of the nations or the navies of the seven seas.

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*Editor's Note:* Part Four is from the pen of Homer and Minnie Bright. In editing these materials we have tried to retain the intimate approach and treatment,

It is fitting in this introduction to mention the fact that the children of the Sunday schools of Southern Ohio are supporting missionary children on the various fields. This is significant for the future of missions. In their early and tender years our children are a part of the great ongoing of the Kingdom of God and belong to a large fellowship of those who love the church and are bringing peace to the world.

For some years several missionaries were supported by the Sunday schools of the district. In the course of years this support has been replaced by Women's Work, Men's Work, and Youth Serves, each making regular contributions to foreign missions. The yearly goals of the young people were steadily increased until \$6,500, or over, was given. When the Eikenberrys were commissioned to Nigeria, the young people assumed their support; and this touch with foreign work has kept their interest unabated. And besides supporting the national women's projects, the women of the district sought to increase their support of missions by assuming the support of an individual missionary. Their first representative was Harriett Howard Bright, whom they supported from 1947 to 1952. Then, as Harriett retired from the China field, they took up the support of Betty Brooks Campbell, a third-generation missionary to India. As Betty's father is a son of Southern Ohio, our district considers Betty its daughter.

Many of the missionaries who have gone out from the Southern District of Ohio were supported by their home churches. Where there are couples their record is made together. Where one is not a son or a daughter of the district, the companion takes the main role in the biography.



## 2. CHINA

Minna Mote Heckman .....	1911-13
B. F. Heckman .....	1911-13
J. Homer Bright .....	1911-40
Minnie F. Bright .....	1911-40
Elizabeth Weybright Oberholtzer .....	1916-37
I. E. Oberholtzer .....	1916-38
Walter J. Heisey .....	1917-31
Sue Rinehart Heisey .....	1917-31
O. C. Sollenberger .....	1919-49
Hazel Coppock Sollenberger .....	1919-37
Elizabeth Baker Wampler .....	1922-50
Ernest M. Wampler .....	1918-50
Bessie Crim .....	1940—
John W. Detrick .....	1946-51
J. Calvin Bright .....	1947-51
Harriett Howard Bright .....	1947-50

### MINNA MOTE HECKMAN

China, 1911 to 1913

Minna Mote was born to Harvey and Hettie Niswonger Mote, near Union City, Indiana, in the Pleasant Valley congregation, on August 18, 1885. Her father was a minister and elder in the Pleasant Valley church. Growing up in a Christian atmosphere, Minna united with the church early in life.

After attending Mount Morris College and Bethany Biblical Seminary, she was married to B. F. Heckman in June 1905. Brother Heckman was a teacher in the seminary while completing his studies. He was the first graduate from

the seminary, the others of the class of eight being graduates from the Bible School in the class of 1911. This fine consecrated couple set their faces for China, sailing in 1911. They had two small children, Esther and Lois.

After reaching the field they entered immediately upon language study. Most of the first year was spent at the coast, Tientsin and Peitaiho, because of the revolution which was on at that time.

In the autumn of 1912, the Heckmans went interior to Shansi Province and settled in Ping Ting Chow, where the Church of the Brethren mission work had been started two years before. In January of 1913 Brother Heckman died of smallpox. This was a tragic and unspeakable loss to the field. Minna with her two children returned to the States the following summer, having spent scarcely two years on the field to which she and her brilliant husband had dedicated their lives.

With courage Mrs. Heckman set herself to readjustment. She entered the classroom again, preparing herself as a director of religious education. She was an efficient teacher for more than twelve years in this field at Bethany Seminary. She took her Master's degree in religious education, studying in Northwestern University as well as Bethany Seminary. She has served in this field and also as a parish worker in several congregations. Her years have been filled with fruitful service, and she is now living at La Verne, California.

### J. HOMER AND MINNIE F. BRIGHT

China, 1911 to 1940

J. Homer was born to Elder J. Calvin and Elizabeth Hiestand Bright near New Lebanon, Ohio, on September 28, 1880, being the oldest of eight children. His was a very religious home where family prayers and Christian hymns were offered each day. Church services were never neglected. The home was ever conscious of the importance of the church. As a child J. Homer often accompanied his father to other churches where he heard his father preach. He sat with the



ministers on the “preachers’ bench” behind a long table, his feet not touching the floor! He learned early to “walk in the way of the fathers.”



J. Homer Bright and Wife

At the age of fifteen he entered Juniata College for normal work, and one year later began teaching school. After two winters he returned to Juniata and finished the normal course. He took Bible work at Bethany and was a member of the first graduating class, and, on furlough from China, completed his college work at Manchester College in 1927.

In early childhood he attended church at Wolf Creek. Elected to the ministry when twenty-one years of age, he continued teaching school for a number of years. It was during this time that he met Minnie Flory, daughter of John and Millie Younce Flory of near Phillipsburg, Ohio. Minnie was born on December 21, 1880, the youngest of nine children. Her education was of the usual grade school and high school type. Later she attended Manchester College and Bethany Biblical Seminary. She united with the church early in life. She came from a godly home. Her father was an excellent Bible student

who taught his children many valuable truths. Minnie was active in church work, and helped in the organization of the first mission study class, then called the Missionary Reading Circle. It was here that the first call came to her to give her life to foreign missionary work.

The friendship of Homer and Minnie culminated in their marriage in May 1904. Following Homer's graduation from Bethany, they were approached by the Mission Board for the China field. After giving careful consideration to spending their lives in service abroad, they decided to answer the call, "Go ye unto the uttermost parts of the earth," and began making preparations accordingly. China seemed a strange and faraway country.

In September 1911, with their two children and six other missionaries, they sailed from Seattle for Tientsin, China. On the deck of the outgoing ship friends of the Seattle church and Brother D. L. Miller gathered for a brief prayer service, farewells, and words of encouragement. Brother Miller in giving his final message added these words: "You are leaving home, families and many things in going out as missionaries, but there's one thing you'll not leave behind, and that is the Devil. He'll go with you all the way." These words were never forgotten.

The Brights landed in China eight days after the revolution began. This circumstance necessitated their remaining at the coast eleven months, which were spent in language study. In the late summer of 1912, the country had become quiet enough for them to go interior. They were located at Liao Chow in the beautiful mountains of Shansi, three days' journey from the railroad and beyond three mountain ranges. It seemed indeed like the "uttermost part of the earth." Travel was entirely by animals and by walking.

J. Homer was assigned to educational work. The area was virgin soil, as no missionary or native Christian had done any work in these parts. The people were fearful of this "foreign invasion." It took time to build confidence, but God opened many doors of opportunity to serve the people. Preaching, teaching, and healing brought great numbers to the knowledge of Christ.



Later J. Homer became the mission's architect, treasurer, and evangelist. Minnie was teacher to her children, assisted the doctor in the clinic and the hospital, cared for needlecraft instruction for years, taught in the schools, engaged in home and village evangelism, and did much entertaining of Christians and missionaries in her home. A record for one month was three hundred guests, many of whom came long distances over mountain trails for a chat and a cup of tea. It was a rule of her life that no guests, whether rich or poor, educated or illiterate, ever left without her telling them of the Christ who gave Himself for them. She was named the god-mother for many a baby by the child's parents.

Their first deep grief came to them in their early years of work, when, in the providence of God, their small two-year-old baby was taken. In sixteen months another, a six-year-old, sunshiny, happy daughter, also slipped away. Two children grew to maturity—Esther and Calvin.

J. Homer and Minnie left the China field in the summer of 1940 because of the critical illness of Minnie. During nearly three decades they had seen the church expand from a mustard-seed beginning to a large Christian fellowship of believers numbering several thousand. During these years they had seen China grow more and more restless politically and socially, smarting under injustices forced upon her by the Western nations. But the cross has been securely planted, and the remnant shall not be overcome.

The Brights are living in the Salem church, Minnie's old home church in Southern Ohio, near Phillipsburg.

#### ELIZABETH WEYBRIGHT OBERHOLTZER China, 1916 to 1937

Elizabeth was born into the home of Philip and Emma Royer Weybright on May 31, 1885, near Trotwood, Ohio. While very young she was taken to church and Sunday school in the old Wolf Creek church until the Trotwood church was organized; then it became her church home. By her many friends she was called Bessie. Her early education followed

the usual routine, and her formal training was received in Manchester College. She taught school for five years in Darke and Montgomery counties. Later she took work at Oberlin Seminary.



Isaiah Oberholtzer and Wife

In 1911 Elizabeth met Isaiah Oberholtzer at a Sunday-school class meeting; he had come to Ohio to visit his friend, J. Cephas Flora, who had married Elizabeth Garver and was now living in Ohio. A friendship developed which culminated in their marriage in September 1915. Isaiah was then a young minister preparing for his life's work. After finishing college at Juniata, he taught in Daleville College for two years. He took work at Garrett Biblical Institute, and later completed his seminary training at Yale University. This was followed with postgraduate work at Oberlin Seminary. It was while they were in Oberlin that the Oberholtzers had their divine call for service on the China field.

At the Winona Conference in 1916 they were commissioned to go to China, and Brother Oberholtzer was ordained to the eldership. It was a busy summer preparing for their de-



parture in August 1916. Their first year was spent in language school, following the pattern of all missionaries coming to the field. Their first station was Ping Ting, where Isaiah was in charge of a men's Bible school. Later they were transferred to Liao Chow, where they were assigned to evangelism and where they did a noble work.

Four children were born to them on the field, the two daughters being identical twins. The care of the home and family kept Elizabeth a busy mother, and no mother ever served more sacrificially and beautifully. The Chinese mothers loved her deeply, and the story of her kindnesses and manifestations of love in the homes of her neighbors and among the village women is a long unwritten story. As time permitted she taught in the women's Bible school, did home visitation, and entertained many a weary traveler. After the children had left home to attend the boarding school for missionary children, Elizabeth accompanied Isaiah on his many evangelistic tours through the villages, being gone for days at a time, enduring many privations to witness of the love of God to women who for the first time heard the "Glad Tidings." These trips over rugged mountains and stony river beds were not made on "flowery beds of ease." It meant riding pack animals (mules and donkeys) and often walking where trails were dangerous. It was a real physical hardship, but joy crowned these experiences as they found a glad welcome everywhere.

It seems fitting to tell an incident in the life of Elizabeth which clearly reveals her noble, magnificent character. It happened when their last child was quite ill. The babe was frail from birth and there were many times when it seemed that the little life was hanging on a thread. It was nearing two years old when once again sickness overtook it. Brother Oberholtzer had made all arrangements for a long tour of villages in a far part of their field, but hesitated to take the journey and leave Elizabeth alone with the sick child. She urged him to carry on his work of preaching in the great open field, saying that perhaps the baby would recover again as it always had before. Reluctantly he started out with her encouragement. The following day the babe was taken to

be with the Master. Elizabeth sent word to her husband not to return home, but to continue his good work until the tour was completed. The few missionaries at the station helped Elizabeth with the burial and gave her comfort. How rare are the wives and mothers who carry such a heart of sacrificial love! Such are unwritten stories of souls never mentioned in the "Who's Who" column.

They, too, lived through famine and war years and long separation from each other. Elizabeth returned to the States with the children and kept a home for them while they were in college. I. E. continued on alone in missionary work, often in danger of robbers during the Japanese war. In 1938 he joined his family in the States. They have had several pastorates during these years, doing very acceptable work. They have just retired to their present home in Trotwood, Ohio, but their hearts and prayers are with their Chinese Christian friends. Elizabeth is a noble and worthy daughter of Southern Ohio.

WALTER J. AND SUE RINEHART HEISEY  
China, 1917 to 1931

Walter J. Heisey was born September 17, 1890, to Albert and Susan Kreider Heisey, near Union, Ohio. He was born into a family of six sons and two daughters. Four of the sons became ministers, and this son a missionary to China. A sister was a missionary to South Africa. Back of such commitment to the work of God was a godly home where daily prayers were offered and the Bible was the most read book. It was a financial struggle for the parents to keep their brood together, and Walter spent periods of time in other Christian homes. The mother's earnest prayers rested upon each child as he came and went from the home.

Walter's education followed the usual trend. After high school he graduated from Manchester College and Bethany Seminary and was also fortunate in having some postgraduate work. He was called to the ministry in 1911. Being a capable, earnest Christian he had many opportunities for Christian



development in Sunday school, mission band in college, and revival meetings.

In 1917 he married the charming and talented Sue Rinehart, whose home was just this side of the Indiana state line. But her church home was the Four Mile church in the Southern District of Indiana. She was born to David and Fannie Rinehart in Preble County, Ohio, on January 9, 1888. Her formal training was secured at Manchester College and Bethany Biblical Seminary, and through special training in music. She was a supervisor of music in the public schools for some time.

In 1917 the Heiseys were commissioned at the Wichita Conference for mission work in China. In late summer they sailed with six others and the Crumpackers, senior missionaries in China. Before a missionary can do efficient work, it is necessary to learn the language. So the Heiseys began immediately on this long road that seems to have no end. Their first year was spent in Peiping in the College of Chinese Studies, along with many others who had come to serve in China. Both Walter and Sue covered the five-year course in language study.

Brother Heisey's assignment was to Show Yang, Shansi, as an evangelist. He had an "ear" for the language and rapidly gained a fine speaking vocabulary as he mingled with people in shops, market places, and fairs, and had personal contacts. He became a fluent speaker. His genial, gentle disposition won him many friends in the many villages throughout the two counties where his work called him. He gave himself unselfishly during the famine and plague disasters which struck North China in the twenties. The governor of the province gave him distinguished honors for his splendid work. In all the valiant years of his service on the field, his devoted wife faithfully kept the home, rearing their three children, and helping in church work and in Sunday school, and being a teacher for her children until they were old enough to enter the boarding school for missionary children near Peking.

After their furlough in 1931, they remained in the States because of the illness of their daughter. The Heiseys have

been busy people serving in pastorates in various places, since retiring from the field, with an interval while the boys were in college in serving as public relations worker for Manchester College.

At present the Heiseys are serving the church in Tiffin, Ohio; he is also the executive secretary for the Northwestern District of Ohio and a member of the executive committee of the Ohio Council of Churches.

### O. C. AND HAZEL COPPOCK SOLLENBERGER

China, 1919 to 1949; 1919 to 1937

O. C. Sollenberger comes of staunch Brethren stock. He was born on a farm in the Middle District congregation to Elder David and Rebecca Yount Sollenberger, on March 29, 1889. O. C. grew up in a spiritual atmosphere. He came into the church at the age of fourteen and set his face in the direction of serving his Master. A quiet, serious lad with a keen mind, he followed the usual routine of early school days. He served the congregation as a Sunday-school teacher and as superintendent and later was called to the ministry.

At a Sunday-school convention of Southern Ohio in 1911, he heard the farewell messages of the Heckmans and the Brights, who were soon to leave for China, commissioned as missionaries to that field. It was then that he had his vision for his life's work, and he felt God's hand laid upon him to prepare for foreign service. To answer the call he began making preparation by entering Manchester College. In time he graduated from Manchester, and in due time from Bethany Biblical Seminary.

Hazel Coppock Sollenberger, daughter of John W. and Mary Hikes Coppock, was born July 4, 1891, and also lived in the Middle District congregation. While still quite young she became a capable worker in the church, and later served at the Charleston and East Dayton churches as a home mission worker under the Mission Board of Southern Ohio, when those churches were still mission charges. Hazel and O. C. were attracted to each other quite naturally as both had high ideals



of serving the church and their Lord wherever He might lead. They were married in May 1912. Hazel attended Manchester College and took work at Bethany Seminary as time allowed from her household duties.

O. C. and Hazel were commissioned to the China field in the spring of 1919 and sailed in August of the same year with six others newly appointed to China, and with Anna Hutchison and the Brights, returning from furlough. They sailed on the old "Missionary Annie" (the *China*); this nickname had been given to it because it carried so many missionaries to and from the Orient through the years, mostly when it was under an American register.

After a period of language study, Brother Sollenberger was assigned to country evangelistic work. A missionary is called upon to do many jobs on the side, and so it was with O. C. To be versatile is a great asset to one's missionary usefulness. O. C. was a steady plodder, building a sure foundation. The Chinese came to love him. They admired his sincerity, his genuine love for them, his understanding of their inner longings, and his humility. He was one with them. He toured the villages for days and weeks on end, enduring many hardships, to bring the love of Christ to the people. Over mountain trails, treacherous in winter or slippery with seasonal rains, he kept faithfully on his march to establish the young Christians and add others to the church.

At home was Hazel. Her body was frail, and often for weeks she was bedfast. Her four walls became her prayer room, where intercessory prayer was poured forth daily for her husband, for other missionaries, and for the Christians. She taught her three children until they were old enough to leave home (sixth grade) to enter the boarding school for missionary children near Peking. As health permitted she taught English to nurses in training, and craft work to school-girls. Her home was always open to all classes of people; there a cup of tea meant courteous hospitality and helped open a door for Christ to enter. Hazel, in spite of poor health, always urged her husband to go out and tour among the villages, and not sacrifice time and concern for her.

The story of the work which Brother Sollenberger did on

the field would fill a book. His brave efforts in relief work during his later years on the field, possible danger from bandits, tortuous journeys through war-stricken areas, the long and uncertain separations from his family, and a constant giving of himself to comfort the afflicted Christians—this is a saga in itself. When communism swept in and took over, in 1949 this seasoned warrior of the cross left the field where he had served so valiantly across the years. O. C. and Hazel now live in retirement in Los Gatos, California.

### ELIZABETH BAKER WAMPLER

China, 1922 to 1950

Elizabeth Baker Wampler was born October 9, 1891, near Greenville, Ohio, to Elder W. Henry and Mary Hollinger Baker. Her mother died before she was three years old. Four years later the father, a farmer preacher, married Maggie Halliday, who was a kind Christian foster mother. Attending church was an unbreakable custom in the home the same as eating and sleeping. Betty grew up in the Palestine church and in her early years gave her heart to God. She attended the country school in the community and later high school. She taught school three years, and then served under the District Mission Board in Circleville, Ohio, for a short term.

Two years at Manchester College were followed by nurses' training in Battle Creek, Michigan. While in college Betty felt the call of her Master to the foreign field as a nurse. This challenge came through talks with returned missionaries who presented the physical and spiritual needs of the people. After finishing nurses' training, she spent some time at Bethany Biblical Seminary.

In July 1922 Betty sailed for China along with other commissioned missionaries for the same field. Following a year of language study in the College of Chinese Studies, in Peking, she was located in the busy Ping Ting hospital, in Shansi Province. Here her kind hands were kept busy ministering to the many sick and giving words of Christian



comfort to anxious hearts. Training nurses was also a part of her busy schedule.

On her first furlough she was married to Ernest M. Wampler in 1928. They went back to China the same year. They were very efficient workers. Betty was not only doing



Ernest Wampler and Wife

the work of a nurse, but was caring for a home and working as an evangelist along with her husband. Two sons, Joseph and Eugene, came to bless their home. They lived through much of the Japanese war and had the misfortune of a bomb dropping on their home greatly demolishing the walls and property. Betty and the little boys were fortunate to have time to heed the air-raid siren and reach the air-raid shelter for safety. Ernest was outside the city at the time, and also escaped injury. They soon returned to Liao Chow, with closer connections to coast cities should war conditions make it necessary to leave. There relief work was done for several years until Japanese attitudes made it necessary for our workers to leave Shansi; shortly thereafter they returned to America. Soon Brethren Wampler and Sollenberger returned

to China hoping to reach sufferers of our China field from the rear. During the time spent in China they were able to render much service to the needy even though they were unable to do anything directly for the sufferers in our Shansi field.

After the close of World War II, the Wamplers returned with others to the China field. Some months were spent in Shansi, where they were joyously received. But soon they found they were unwelcome by the communists; so they returned to Peking. Calls came for our workers to go to Central and West China. The Wamplers were located near Nanchang, at Hsiang Tang, where agricultural and relief projects were carried on. After the communists came and occupied these parts of China, their sons were unable to travel home after the close of the American school in Shanghai. So the boys returned to America in the autumn of 1949, but the parents were unable to leave until the spring of 1950. They reached home a short while before the Annual Conference at Grand Rapids, Michigan. Their home is now in Bridgewater, Virginia, where they are busy in church work.

### BESSIE CRIM

China, 1940; Extended Furlough

Bessie Crim was born to Charles E. and Luella Swank Crim on October 4, 1914, near Bellefontaine, Ohio.

After finishing high school, Bessie entered nurses' training. Her postgraduate work took her to Baltimore and New York, where she obtained excellent experience in the nursing profession. She was preparing herself to answer the call of God to go to the mission field which came while she was a youth in high school.

In 1940, at the Ocean Grove Conference, Bessie was commissioned to the China mission field. In September of the same year she sailed for the land of Cathay, a country in the throes of war and terrible suffering. The Japanese were waging war on the Chinese at this time, and only souls fully committed to Christ had the courage to enter China as mis-



sionaries. The future was uncertain indeed. Communism was spreading its tentacles of power and poison throughout the country. But nothing daunted Bessie's faith in the definite call from God that He had a work for her to do in ministering as a Christian nurse to some of the many suffering people in China.

Immediately upon her arrival, Miss Crim entered the language school in Peking. She made excellent progress in the Chinese language. Because of strained political relations between Japan and the United States, the first-year language school students were moved to the Philippine Islands for "safety" in March 1941. The rapid success of the Japanese continued until by the following December it swept over the Philippines. At this time Bessie and seven other Church of the Brethren missionaries, together with a large group of other new China missionaries who had taken refuge here while studying the Chinese language, were all taken prisoners. For more than three years Bessie remained in a prison camp. She refers to this experience as a "monotonous routine of living, especially when food was scarce." But one with Bessie's energy could not sit idly by and wither away. She was a ministering angel to the many who became ill in this prison camp, and even the "enemy" soldiers came to her for medical care. Her violin was a consoling and comforting companion in these days, and the Christian hymns which she played comforted many hearts.

In February 1945 they were released from their prison camp, and Bessie was soon on her way home to the States for recuperation. Churches everywhere invited her to speak and tell of her experiences. She responded, courageously witnessing to the love and grace of God.

In December of 1946 she returned to China. The power of the communists had greatly increased, particularly since the close of World War II. This made missionary work next to impossible where the communists were in power. Our missionaries were welcomed by the Christians of our field, but they soon found that they were unwelcome guests and some experienced hardships in leaving for Peking. After



a brief period in a mission hospital in Peking, Bessie left for the Far West of China where the Brethren mission was opening a new field of work.

In West China Bessie entered the hospital, where she did valiant service in spite of great obstacles. Her great faith and courage kept her going. Her efficient hands ministered to thousands of suffering while her lips spoke and sang of the love of God.

Because of the sweep of communism into West China also, it became necessary for Bessie to leave her much-loved work. She returned to the States in the autumn of 1950, ill in body, her missionary service checkered with joy and disappointment.

She has recently graduated from Juniata College in preparation for some other field of service. The "love of Christ constraineth" her.

### JOHN W. DETRICK

China, 1946 to 1951

John W. was born to Charles Edward and Mary Town Detrick on February 6, 1918, at Dayton, Ohio. When John was eight months old his mother died, and he was then reared by a maternal aunt and her husband. He attended the First Brethren church and Sunday school in Dayton. At the age of thirteen, he was baptized. His high school education and a period of training at the Leland Electric Company kept him living in the city of Dayton all through his youth.

He began attending the West Dayton Church of the Brethren and taking part in the choir and young people's meetings. Later he transferred his membership to this church. Ida Klepinger Hoover was one of the most influential persons affecting the Christian development and direction of his life. In 1937 John was licensed to the ministry.

In 1941 John graduated from McPherson College. During the summers while in college he served as pastor of the Glade Park church, Colorado. In 1942, after being ordained to the ministry by the West Dayton church, he attended the Oberlin Graduate School of Theology, receiving his B.D. degree in



1945. From 1942 to 1946 he was pastor of the Alliance Church of the Brethren and also active in Children's Work and Brethren Service in the District of Northeastern Ohio.

In 1945, at the Annual Conference held at North Manchester, Indiana, Brother Detrick was commissioned for the China field. The years from 1946 to 1951 he spent in Peking, China. Besides language study, he did excellent work as a teacher in one of the mission schools in that city. He was a guide and counselor to Brethren students refugeeing in Peking, for these were war years and many of our young Christians were caught there unable to return to their homes.

In 1948 in Tzechung, Szechwan, during the Mission Conference when the deputation (Brother Rufus Bowman and Brother Leland Brubaker) visited the field, Brother Detrick was ordained to the eldership. In 1951 it became necessary for him to return to the States because the communists made missionary work impossible. So with disappointment he turned his face homeward. At present John is doing further graduate work in the Oberlin Graduate School of Theology.

### J. CALVIN AND HARRIETT HOWARD BRIGHT

China, 1947 to 1951; 1947 to 1950

J. Calvin was born in Liao Chow, Shansi, China, to J. Homer and Minnie F. Bright on September 19, 1915. There were three daughters born into the family to which he came. His birth was welcomed by many Chinese friends, who felt that the gods had indeed answered their prayers on behalf of the Bai (white) family, for their prayers for the Bright family had been that they might have a son. When Calvin was a month old, beautiful gifts were showered upon him by these friends as this marked an important birthday event. When he began to talk, he found English the more difficult, as the Chinese language is simpler for a child to learn to speak. For his early education he had his mother and his oldest sister, Esther (now Mrs. Floyd Denlinger), as teachers. Esther had stayed on an extra schoolyear in China before

coming to the States for her college work, and taught the missionary children of the station.

From early childhood Calvin showed an unusual interest in Chinese art and culture and an understanding of their history and civilization. As a lad he often visited the temples and sat with the priests, asking questions about their worship and the meaning of their many symbols. Being near the ancient and historic city of Peking while in an American school for missionary children, Calvin had many opportunities to visit the fine museums and sacred shrines located there, and gained an education in Chinese culture far beyond that acquired by many missionaries who had spent a lifetime in the China field.

When Calvin came to the States for his college work, he entered Berea College, Berea, Kentucky, finishing with a B.S. in Agriculture. He never expected to spend his life anywhere else than in China, for China was his home, and to this purpose he had dedicated his life.

Harriett was born to John and Margaret Howard on February 14, 1912, in the beautiful Cumberland Mountains. Her parents were deeply religious with high ideals and hopes for their two daughters, doing everything possible toward their education. At the age of eight years, the parents took Harriett far from home across the mountains to the Pine Mountain Settlement School located across Pine Mountain about ten miles from Harlan, a fine school for underprivileged mountain children. The sobbing and begging of Harriett to return home did not change their minds for her education. In time she became adjusted to her new surroundings. Her tender years spent in this lovely place would fill a book of thrilling stories. In her first year at Pine Mountain she began weaving cloth, and she has made this craft an art ever since. After completing her elementary schooling at the Pine Mountain Settlement School, she entered Berea College. And after finishing college at Berea, she later received her M.A. from Peabody. She taught in various states and at Berea as well. Her weaving students are scattered over the world. She was on the Berea College faculty at the time of her marriage.



It was in college that Calvin and Harriett first met, and a warm friendship developed which culminated in their marriage in May 1945. Calvin was in Bethany Seminary at the time of their marriage. He graduated with a B.D. in 1946. They had a summer pastorate at Peoria, Illinois, in 1945, and he continued as student pastor while finishing his work at Bethany. It was at the Wenatchee Conference in 1946 that they were commissioned for the China field. Owing to uncertain political conditions in China, they continued their pastoral work at Peoria for a second year. Though they were packed and ready to sail after the Orlando Conference, they were delayed by conditions getting worse in China. But in late autumn, as a new field in West China was opening, they set sail for an uncertain and chaotic country.

Our work in North China, where the Church of the Brethren had carried on from the beginning of its work in China in 1908, was closed because of the rapid sweep of the communists. Calvin and Harriett were sent to Chengtu, Szechwan, West China, for language study. Soon they began to do some work in the West China Union University. It was here they spent many happy days of fruitful work. Harriett learned the language with marked ease and efficiency. Calvin had no difficulty in adjusting from his North China dialect to that of West China. He was working with seminary students, and Harriett was teaching weaving in the home economics department. And both were busy with Bible classes for the students who requested that they be taught. The missionaries realized that they were working against time, for it looked as if the work to establish the Christians would soon be finished.

Late in 1949 communism finally swept into West China, the last area of China to be taken over. Christian work was gradually restricted until June 1950, when all work by missionaries was stopped. Harriett returned to the States in the late autumn of 1950. Calvin was detained by the authorities, and for six months lived in uncertainty, not knowing from day to day what might befall him. On January 8, 1951, he was arrested in his home and taken to prison in the city of Chengtu. No effort will be made here to give any description

of that tragic experience. When word of his imprisonment was announced to the Brotherhood, prayers began to ascend to the throne of God from the North and the South, and from the East and the West, from multitudes of saints and small children for his release if it was God's will. On May 10, 1951, the answer came, and he was miraculously delivered from prison, greatly emaciated from lack of food. Death from starvation had almost claimed him. He arrived in the States in June 1951.

At present Calvin and Harriett are serving the Richmond church in Richmond, Indiana, and he is also executive secretary of the Southern District of Indiana.



### 3. INDIA

John M. Pittenger .....	1904-20
Florence Baker Pittenger .....	1904-20
D. J. Lichty .....	1902-47
Anna Eby Lichty .....	1912-47
A. Raymond Cottrell .....	1913-49
Laura M. Cottrell .....	1913-49
Harlan J. Brooks .....	1924—
Ruth Forney Brooks .....	1924—
Kathryn Kiracofe .....	1937—
H. Spenser Minnich .....	1948-50
Eva Shepfer Minnich .....	1948-50

#### JOHN M. PITTENGER India, 1904 to 1920

John M. Pittenger, Southern Ohio's first son to go to the foreign field, was born March 6, 1869, near West Charleston, Miami County, Ohio. His parents were Joshua W. and Mary Senseman Pittenger. His early education was in the public schools, and he later attended Mount Morris and Juniata colleges, taking the usual degrees.

On May 18, 1904, he was married to Florence Baker of Grantsville, Maryland, who was also a graduate of Juniata College. The marriage took place in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, in the home of Elder J. B. Brumbaugh. Immediately following the wedding ceremony, the newlyweds left for Carthage, Missouri, where the Annual Conference was held. It was here that their appointment by the General Mission Board to the mission field in India was confirmed by the

Annual Conference. They left New York in October 1904 and landed at Bombay, India, on December 6.

The Pittengers were not only the first missionaries of Southern Ohio to a foreign field, but they were pioneer mis-



J. M. Pittenger and Wife

sionaries to the Dangs Forest region in India, an area of one thousand square miles, the densest and largest jungle on the west side of India. These volunteers of the cross asked for this difficult field, full of physical dangers, to share their Christ with the people living there. For nine years they labored at Ahwa with only one interfurlough before returning to the homeland. On returning to India they again entered the treacherous jungle to preach the Christ. In time it became necessary for them to leave this malaria-infested forest, as many attacks of virulent malaria laid Brother Pittenger low with fever, and closer medical attention was necessary. For a time they were at Bulsar under the care of the Doctors Cottrell, and then went to Dahanu when Brother Lichty left on furlough. The Pittengers left India from Dahanu in April of 1920. Brother Pittenger was broken in body but had sown much gospel seed to be harvested by other laborers who would follow.

They have three children, all of whom were born in India. They are living at present with their daughter, Dr. Mary A. Pittenger, M.D., in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



## ANNA EBY LICHTY

India, 1912 to 1947

Anna was born to Josiah and Emma Landis Eby on September 16, 1886, on a farm near Dayton, Ohio. She grew up in the Bear Creek church, where her father was a minister



D. J. Lichty and Wife

and elder. Her preparation for her life's work came through the public schools, college, teaching, and Bethany Biblical Seminary. She graduated from the Bible School in 1912, and the same year her appointment to India by the General Mission Board was confirmed by the Annual Conference held at York, Pennsylvania. She sailed in November of that year.

Anna was assigned to educational and evangelistic work in the Marathi language area. In 1923 she was married to D. J. Lichty, who had been on the mission field since 1902. As his work was in the Gujarati language, Anna joined in his labors in the ministry of preaching, teaching, healing, and establishing churches and Christian homes.

The Bear Creek church faithfully and generously supported Anna financially through all her years on the India field. She speaks of "how fast and how pleasantly those years have flown," and "God's grace was sufficient for every task, and His Spirit always available to guide." They retired from the India field in 1947. For several years after returning to



the States they lived near Anna's sister in Southern Ohio, and then they moved to Franklin Grove, Illinois.

LAURA M. COTTRELL, M. D.

India, 1913 to 1949

Dr. Laura was born in Greenville, Ohio, on October 1, 1881. Her parents were A. J. and Mary Coates Murphy. Laura went through the usual public schools, and then to college for a while. These years of training were followed by four years of public-school teaching. She was a proofreader in the Brethren Publishing House for two and a half years. She accepted her Savior in early life, and was active in Sunday school and young people's meetings, always ready to do her part wherever needed.

She was married to A. Raymond Cottrell, of Indiana, on August 8, 1906. During 1907-08 they attended Bethany Biblical Seminary, and the following year entered medical school expecting to become missionaries on a foreign field. She received her M.D. degree from the University of Illinois in June 1912.

Together they struggled through their preparation. Difficulties and testings came through these trying years. Less courageous souls might have faltered and given up; but faith and the call from God prompted them to continue.

In the autumn of 1913, this couple, both medical doctors, unique in the field of missions for the Church of the Brethren, set their faces toward India. They were the first medical missionaries of the Church of the Brethren in India. They located at Bulsar where a good hospital, and also dormitory buildings where the families of patients could care for their sick, were built. Here they ministered to thousands of sick and suffering across the years. Many of these afflicted ones heard for the first time the story of the Great Physician within the hospital walls. The great concern of these consecrated doctors was that through their ministry they might lead these people to know the Savior of the world.



In 1933 the Cottrells, as they returned to India from furlough, were sent by the Mission Board to visit the China mission field and check on the health of the missionaries there, since no missionary doctor had been on the field for two years. They spent six months with the China mission.

The Cottrells retired from the India field in the autumn of 1950. A year later, Dr. Laura passed from earth to her great and glorious reward.

HARLAN J. BROOKS  
India, 1924—

Harlan was born to George and Emma Martin Brooks on May 5, 1898, near Clayton, Ohio, in the Happy Corner congregation. His formal education was secured in the local public schools, Manchester College, Bethany Seminary, and



Harlan Brooks and Wife

Northwestern University. He served as pastor of the Douglas Park church, Chicago, taught in Brethren camps east and west, did deputation work, was a religious instructor at La Verne College, and taught sociology at Elizabethtown College.

He married Ruth Forney, daughter of Daniel L. and Anna Shull Forney, pioneer missionaries of the Brethren to India. Ruth was a second-generation missionary. Harlan and Ruth sailed for India in November 1924. The work of Brother

Brooks has been that of evangelist, supervisor of mission schools, and principal of the Vocational Training School at Anklesvar.

Training young men in the art of Christian living and in the use of God's good earth helped bring the more abundant life to an impoverished people. Brother Brooks is a man with a broad vision of service. To educate the mind and to train the hands for toil are important to the development of the soul—that is a great Christian philosophy for any missionary, and for any growing church.

The Brookses have two daughters. Betty, the older, who in the autumn of 1952 went to the India field with her husband, Glenn Campbell, is the first third-generation missionary of the Church of the Brethren. The second daughter, now Mrs. Albert Huston, is enrolled in Bethany Biblical Seminary preparing for Christian service.

### KATHRYN KIRACOFÉ

India, 1937—

Kathryn was born to James U. and Vinnie Eby Kiracofe, of Gratis, Ohio, on February 16, 1907. The home was deeply religious with a traditional church loyalty. Under such influence Kathryn's life was early set in channels of Christian service.

Her training at Mount Morris in the academy and the college, her service in vacation Bible schools, Sunday-school work, and missionary work in her local church—all these were preparations for a greater service. When the "Divine Voice" called her to the foreign field, so desperately in need of laborers, she offered herself to the Mission Board for India. She sailed for that land in October 1937.

Kathryn is a devoted witness for her Master, and is doing a splendid work among the women of the villages. Along with her evangelistic concern for the homes she is conducting literacy classes, helping God unlock the minds of these simple people. Soon these underprivileged ones are reading God's



Word for themselves. Now they have the Book to nourish their souls and to guide their steps.

It is to build Bible-reading churches that Kathryn so patiently labors with the people. An illiterate home and an illiterate church have a precarious existence. In working to remove these dangers, Kathryn is reflecting the glory of her Christ.

### H. SPENSER MINNICH

India, 1948 to 1950

Spenser came into the home of Levi and Laura Netzley Minnich on July 4, 1893, near Greenville, Ohio. He inherited the finest type of a Christian home, was nurtured in the faith



H. S. Minnich and Wife

of the church, and was taught the meaning of Christian service. His father was a pioneer and outstanding Sunday-school leader in the district. Early in life, Spenser united with the church.

He taught school for a few years in his community; then he took his A.B. from Manchester College and his A.M. from Northwestern University. Later he attended Bethany Seminary.

He has served with the General Mission Board and the General Brotherhood Board since 1918. The name Spenser has become a household name throughout the Brotherhood

because of his long connection with the Mission Board and the multiplied thousands of contacts in Brethren homes, churches, districts, and Annual Conferences in the cause of missions. It is not possible to tabulate the work Spenser has done in seed-sowing, in influencing lives for the mission field, and in presenting the cause of missions to those financially able to assist.

Spenser took as his life companion Eva Shepfer, daughter of Edward and Sarah E. Moomaw Shepfer, of Ragersville, Ohio, on May 31, 1917.

In 1948 Spenser realized a dream of many years—going to the mission field to live for a while. In December 1948 they sailed to India, where he acted as temporary secretary-treasurer for the mission, as treasurer of the India Joint Council, and as one of the managers in the Inter-Mission Business Office. Mrs. Minnich had charge of the Rajmahal Hostel, which provided lodging and meals for missionaries passing through Bombay. The Minnichs began the Brethren fellowship for members living in the big city for schooling or employment. Spenser was able to visit the young churches in India and see at first hand “what God hath wrought” through His ambassadors across the years. In 1946 he had visited the new mission in Ecuador, and in 1947 he and Mrs. Minnich had visited the work in Puerto Rico.

After a year and a half, the Minnichs returned to the States, and Spenser continues his work of mission promotion and support in the Elgin office, visiting many individuals throughout the Brotherhood for this great cause.



## 4. NIGERIA

Ruth Blocher Mallott .....	1924-26
Floyd E. Mallott .....	1924-27
Dorothy Inman, R.N. ....	1933-34
Ivan L. Eikenberry .....	1945—
Mary Flora Eikenberry .....	1945—

### RUTH BLOCHER MALLOTT Nigeria, 1924 to 1926

Ruth Blocher Mallott was born to Elder Ira G. and Laura Wagner Blocher on February 27, 1897, near Greenville, Ohio. At an early age Ruth became active in Sunday-school and church work. Her public-school education followed the usual pattern. It was followed by college and seminary training, after which she served in daily vacation Bible schools among churches in several states. This experience gave her excellent training for the foreign field.

In September 1921 she married Floyd E. Mallott. In 1924 Ruth and her husband set their faces toward Nigeria. Nigeria was then a new mission field of our denomination, having been opened in 1922. Their station was Garkida for the most part, though Brother Mallott served briefly at Lassa. Because of ill-health, Ruth and their small son, Floyd, Jr., returned to the States in 1926, and Brother Mallott a little over a year later.

After returning from Nigeria, Brother Mallott held many evangelistic meetings and Biblical institutes, and was in pastoral work many years. They now live in Chicago, where Ruth is a public-school teacher and Brother Mallott is on the teaching staff of Bethany Biblical Seminary. He has become a recognized historian of our church, and has helped

us all to have a greater appreciation of our leaders of earlier days, their endeavors to meet the problems of their day, and their seeking to understand the teachings of our Lord and His commission to carry His love and salvation to other peoples.

DOROTHY INMAN  
Nigeria, 1933 to 1934

Dorothy Inman was born June 12, 1904, to Isaac L. and Mary Ellen Inman near Bradford, Ohio. Her first religious activity was among the young people of the church. She entered nurses' training to prepare for her life's work and graduated from excellent hospitals, after which she was a nurses' supervisor and later did nursing from the hospital.

On October 7, 1933, she sailed for Nigeria, and was located at Lassa, a station without medical help. Here she supervised the hospital, did minor operations and skin grafting, cared for obstetrical cases, taught hygiene classes in the villages, and visited the leper colony twice each week to get reports and check the work of the dispensers. Later she was moved to Garkida, where she supervised the nurses, assisted with operations in the hospital and dispensary, and supervised the care and feeding of babies born to leprous mothers in the leper colony.

In September of 1934, because of ill-health, Dorothy returned to the States. She resides at present in Covington.

IVAN L. AND MARY FLORA EIKENBERRY  
Nigeria, 1945—

Ivan Leon Eikenberry was born January 11, 1913, on a farm near Greenville, Ohio, the oldest of three sons born to T. S. and Beulah Minnich Eikenberry. He came by a rich inheritance of Christian living, having parents, grandparents, and forebears who were pillars in the church. Under such godly influences, it was but natural that he should enter the church early in life.



As he was growing up he met many of the outstanding leaders in the church; this privilege helped guide Ivan's life to missionary service. He was active in the youth work of the district, and was director of the Youth Serves project. As a leader he inspired confidence and love for the church.



Ivan Eikenberry and Wife

In 1939 he married Mary E. Flora, daughter of Elder J. C. and Elizabeth Garver Flora. Mary was born in New Windsor, Maryland, on June 13, 1915, and came from an ancestry of distinguished church leaders. Mary came with her parents to Southern Ohio when she was very small; they located near West Charleston, where she spent her childhood and youth. She entered the church at an early age while her father was serving as pastor of the West Charleston church.

Both Ivan and Mary are graduates of Manchester College. Later, while teaching, Ivan continued his studies at Wittenberg College, where he received his M.A. degree. Before and after their marriage both were youth leaders. These experiences were steppingstones to the greater service which the Lord laid on their hearts. Urging youth to a committed



life, soon they could no longer withstand the continuous urgency which God laid upon their hearts to serve in Nigeria.

At the Annual Conference at Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, in June 1944, this couple presented themselves for dedication for service in the foreign field. They were commissioned for Nigeria and sailed for that field on January 4, 1945—Ivan, Mary, and two-year-old Melody. They have been serving in preaching, teaching, and developing a training center for young Christians who are to become evangelists and teachers and thus build indigenous churches.

Ivan and Mary now have one daughter and three sons. At the age of six years, the children leave home to go three hundred fifty miles away to attend school at Jos, returning home twice a year for vacation.

This brief sketch would be incomplete without due recognition being given to the young people of Southern Ohio, who have given their support to the Eikenberrys since their appointment to Nigeria, and who are constantly remembering them in their prayers.



## 5. SUMMARY

In these brief historical sketches of our missionaries, it was possible to catch only a glimpse of the valiant service they rendered to the cause of missions by planting the cross as a great spiritual beacon light to those in darkness. If all were written in books concerning their vast contribution to Christianity and their sacrifices for the love of Christ, "the world could not contain them."

Cutting their moorings from comparative security they have gone courageously into unknown parts of the world, because they felt the call of their Master. The future belongs not to the skeptic, but to those of daring faith in the unseen, in the miracle of love and Christly service.

The churches which have stood back of these spiritual warriors are co-heirs of the eternal inheritance through Christ our Lord.

As the finger of God has moved through the beam of a Star and touches men and women here and there to give themselves to preach the Gospel in distant areas, so may the same finger of God touch others of our sons and daughters in the days to come. The Southern District of Ohio should rejoice in the loyal devotion of its Christian youth.

"Give of thy sons to bear the message glorious,  
Give of thy wealth to speed them on their way;  
Pour out thy soul for them in prayer victorious;  
And all thou spendest Jesus will repay."





## PART FIVE

### Southern Ohio Centennial Observance





## “IN UNBROKEN LINE”

Lois Teach Paul

As their part of the one hundredth district meeting observance, the CBYF of Southern Ohio commissioned a pageant to be presented on Saturday night of the observance week. The cabinet, acting on the advice of the District Program Committee, appointed a trio of district women to write and produce the pageant for them. The three, who had had considerable experience in this area, were Lois Teach Paul, who served as chairman and wrote the pageant, Virginia Royer, who directed it and along with Mrs. Paul and Joy Helstern Dull produced it, and Inez Goughnour Long, who suggested some of the dramatic development. Members of the CBYF cabinet assumed specific production responsibilities and others were asked also to serve in that capacity. All together, more than one hundred fifty persons participated in the production. A unique plan was developed to acquire and train the acting groups for the pageant: those persons in three congregations who were interested in participating were rehearsed by assistant directors in their own localities previous to the regular rehearsals. These were the groups that served as the pantomimists for the entire production. The musical background that set the mood, bridged the scenes, and climaxed the performance was furnished by the one-hundred-twenty-voice Southern Ohio Chorale Society under the direction of Perry Huffaker. Brethren music and selections from the *Messiah* were included in the production. Organists were Shirley King and Madonna Wine Goss.

The format of the pageant itself was a conversation, and simultaneous illustrative pantomime action, between the Voice of the Past, the Voice of the Present, and a speaking choir representing the future generations in quest of a challenge to existence. The history of the Church of the Brethren from its inception until the present development

One Hundredth  
District Meeting

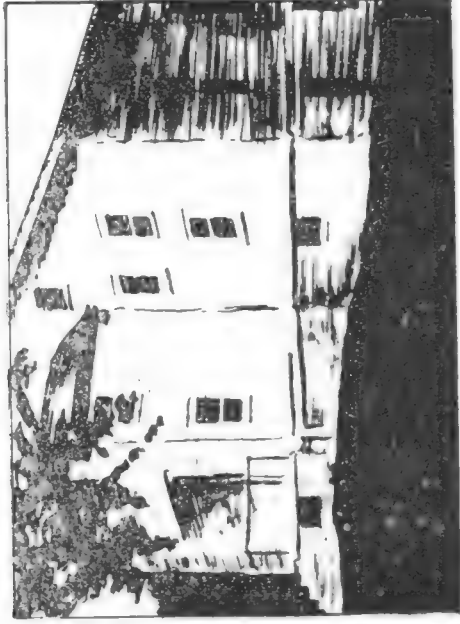
of the  
Church of the Brethren  
Southern District of Ohio  
1854 - 1954

to be held at the  
Salem Church and West Milton H. S. Auditorium  
November 4, 5, 6, 7, 1954



Program

Kenneth G. Long, Asst. Mod.  
Foster M. Bittinger, Reading Clerk  
Ellis G. Guthrie, Secretary  
Roy B. Teach, Secretary



SALEM HOMECOMING  
*and*  
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION  
of the  
BUILDING OF THE FIRST CHURCH

The Southern Ohio District CBYF

Presents

An Historical Pageant

"In Unbroken Line"  
by Lois Teach Paul

Commemorating Southern Ohio's 100th Recorded District Meeting

Produced and Directed by  
Virginia Royer, Lois Paul and Joy Helstern Dull

November 6, 1954 7:30 p.m.  
West Milton High School Auditorium

Printed Programs of Three Historic Occasions



in the Southern Ohio district was offered to the future as an example of the better world that the church offers to those in search of fulfillment. Performed on a six-stage arrangement, the action was very effectively presented by the acting groups who numbered around a hundred persons.

Scene 1 represented the world in a conflict of ideology at the time of the Reformation, and the emerging of men of vision who led in the formation of new Protestant thought. These included Alexander Mack and his original group.

The second scene showed the first group of Brethren to sail for Penn's lands in America under the leadership of Peter Becker, and their leave-taking of their families and friends. This scene was made especially appealing by the participation of several German exchange students who led the group in the Lord's Prayer in German.

The first love feast and the subsequent first missionary journey were shown in Scene 3. Scene 4 told of Alexander Mack's arrival in America, and his meeting with Peter Becker. It also marked Mack's death.

Scene 5 was enacted by a group of children representing the first Sunday school inaugurated by the Brethren, which preceded the Raikes school by some forty years. It also introduced Christopher Saur, Sr., to the pageant as the publisher of early church and secular German literature. He was perhaps the most powerful German figure in Colonial America. This scene also marked the first schism in the American church, that of the Seventh Day Baptists under Conrad Beissel.

Several of the early church leaders of stature were introduced in Scene 6. They included John Naas, Martin Urner, Sr., Christopher Saur, Jr., and Alexander Mack, Jr. The scene ended marked with the violence done Christopher Saur, Jr.

The second part of the pageant was introduced in Scene 7 as the westward movement of the Brethren following their persecution was shown. In this scene the first church in Southern Ohio, Stonelick, was established and Ohio's first minister—Elder John Countryman—was introduced. Scene 8 continued the same action with the enactment of the arrival of settlers in the Miami Valley by Conestoga wagon train and other overland travel. Here Elders Jacob Miller, David



Bowman, and George Hoke are introduced. Scene 9 pictures the duties of such backwoods preachers.

Recounted in Scene 10 is one of the most interesting stories of the early Brethren here, the work of Elder Philip Younce and his wife. This scene depicts one of the early examples of Brethren sharing when they visited the Indian settlement during the second Treaty of Greenville and made friends with them through sharing food with them.

The prelude to the Industrial Revolution and the resulting conflict of ideology that caused the schism of the late nineteenth century mark Scene 11. Scene 12 represents that conflict and division.

At this point the pageant accentuates the turning point of the church by being subdivided at 1851. In the several years that followed, the familistic form of life gave way to urban living as the migration to the city began and further western migration took the church to the Pacific coast. English became the common language, and public schooling was accepted.

In Scene 13 Elder Peter Nead is honored as the moderator of the first district meeting.

The Brethren's rich musical heritage is depicted in Scene 14 as Conrad Beissel is represented leading a small group of singers in some of Beissel's original music, and later as the congregation sings one of the hymns of William Beery.

Scene 15 introduces one of the church's greatest men, Henry Kurtz, and his concept and leadership in the literary development of this period. The unifying factor of the publications he started dare not be underestimated as a vitalizing force and guide in the church's new concept of its position as part of the greater body of Christ. Elder Kurtz's connection with the growth of the educational movement is also shown, marking the Brethren college's beginning at New Vienna, Ohio, a few years before the Civil War. James Quinter's place in that development is noted too, as well as that of later educators. The beginning of the vacation Bible school movement was marked at its beginning in Poplar Grove.

A second type of action is introduced in Scene 16 when on the large plywood plaque of the world that had been placed center stage during the entire action is superimposed,



piece by piece, a second plaque representing the church, the body of Christ, the world of the spirit. Each department of the district work is represented by a plaque piece and is placed, each joining the other, by the chairman of the department mentioned in each subsequent scene, until the second plaque is completed, covering the first.

In scenes 18 and 21, mission work is described and those missionaries that Southern Ohio has produced answer the roll call or are represented by a young person. Scenes 19 and 20 describe the development of Brethren Service.

The evolution of the Brethren concept of stewardship to its present level is marked by Scene 22.

One of the most significant of recent church developments is shown in Scene 23 as the role of district executive secretary, with his helpfulness to the district's pastors, is enacted.

The district functions that are most closely connected to the home itself are represented by their directors in Scene 24. They are Men's and Women's Work, family life, and leadership training.

The very large part of the Brethren philosophy that is the church's present witness for peace was presented in its broader sense in Scene 25. It showed this peculiar contribution the Brethren have to make to the Protestant picture.

The origin of the Youth Serves movement was brought out in Scene 26, as was also the work of the intermediate department. A sober evaluation of our present weaknesses and shortcomings brings the pageant up short to the realization of the job that is to be done, and questions our attitudes toward it. The district's growing concern for evangelism is presented and with it the final challenge of the circle plaque that had been growing to completion during these scenes. As the last piece is placed, there comes the realization that the church is the body of Christ, and that we, as members thereof, are building, or neglecting to build that body, for an outline of Christ has been painted on the plaque in fluorescent paint. At this point, an infra-red light is shown on the plaque and it glows with a fluorescent blue glow as the choir, through music, leads the audience in a prayer of dedication of ourselves and our church, that we may truly be the "body of Christ."







